

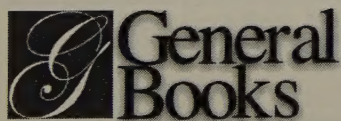
**The Power of
Sympathy; Or, the
Triumph of Nature.
Founded in Truth**

**William Hill
Brown**

**THE POWER OF SYMPATHY: OR,
THE TRIUMPH OF NATURE.
FOUNDED IN TRUTH**

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**Brown, William Hill, 1765-1793 and morton, Sarah Wentworth,
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THE POWER OF SYMPATHY: OR, THE TRIUMPH OF NATURE. FOUNDED IN TRUTH

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POWER OF SYMPATHY:
TRIUMPH OF NATURE.
FOUNDED m TRUTH. I N TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

Fain would he Itrew Life's thorny Way with Flowers, And open to your View Â
lyfian Bowers; Catch the warm Paffions of the. tender Youth, And win the Mind to
Sentiment and Truth.

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MDCCLXXXIX.
YOUNG LADIES,
XDiiitteb Columbia,
Intended to reprepent the fpecious Causes,
Expofe- the fatal Confequences

SEDUCTION;

To inspire the Female Mind With a principle of Self Complacency
 AND TO Promote the Economy of Human Life,
 With Esteem and Sincerity, By their Friend and Humble Servant,
 Editor's Introduction.

I Nerrant perusal of half the pages of this little volume once caused me to determine to eschew literary criticism in the preface I was asked to write, and to speak of the book solely according to its historical and hence its intrinsic I value.

Continual reading here and there, and, at length, a careful examination of the work as a whole have convinced me that several merits may be attributed to the book which range themselves separately in my mind and which are distinct and wholly unique characteristics. They seem to me to be as follows: the bare antiquarian value â as a relic, rare, and old; the historical-literary value, as an expression of the times in which it was written; and its purely artistic worth, as a specimen of English novel writing.

The book was published, as the title page shows, early in 1789, and the self-acknowledged author was Mrs. Perez Morton whose maiden name was Sarah Wentworth Apthorp. Miss Apthorp was born in Braintree in 1759, and had, before her marriage in 1777 with Mr. Morton, gained something more than a local reputation as a clever maker of rhymes, having contributed many poems to the early New England Magazine â the first periodical published in America. These, with additional verses and short. didactic essays, were together brought out in 1823, under the title of "My Mind and Its Thoughts." The edition was small, and sold entirely by subscription. Miss Apthorp wrote over the pseudonym of "Philenia." Her longer poems, epics, are "Ouabi, or The Virtue of Nature: an Indian Tale in Four Cantos," and "Beacon Hill," in which is told the story of the American Revolution. Thi's last is said to have moved Robert Treat Paine to designate her as the "American Sappho."

In 1788, while Mr. and Mrs. Morton were occupying the historical Taylor mansion in Dorchester, a painful domestic tragedy occurred, which, taken in connection with similar contingencies that were happening in the society in which they moved.

doubtless gave "Philenia" the impetus and *raison d'être* for the "Power of Sympathy," published anonymously the following year.

Although evidently written with the purest motive, the good people' of that day were not anxious to receive the lesson, probably because many of them figured as examples. The edition was bought up and destroyed,â as Drake remarks in his "History of Roxbury", "so effectually suppressed that no copy is now known to exist." With the exception of the book now before me, I believe this to be true.

The condition of affairs in America, immediately following the Revolution, was not what many suppose. The people were not completely united in raving against John Bull and his institutions. It is true the lower classes and those of the middle class, who had been excited into believing that de- lusive and, for them, hypocritical motto; "No taxation without representation," or who had gained or lost all through the late fratricidal struggle, were thriving wonderfully on "spread eagle" patriotism stimulated by "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia" â which, today, unfortunately bandage the eyes of America's native civilizatioij â and en- tertained a cordial hatred of England and all things English. Later they were to sympathize with Mira-beau, with

Robespierre and others, and cry death to that French King who had so lately saved them from the dismal caprices of George III and his ignorant and haughty ministers. Politically, they gloried in the name of Democrat.

Nevertheless, there existed an aristocracy in America; an aristocracy that had refrained from becoming Tory solely because personal interest demanded that it should become rebel. Its members were English in taste and manner, in their hearts they were Royalists. They called themselves Federalists. To this category belonged the Hancocks, John Adams, Hamilton, perhaps even Washington himself; and here we find the Apthorps and the Mortons. They had a fondness for court and ceremonyâ thought and culture were still colonial; they talked of the American gentleman, while they dreamed of the English nobleman; for all that, there was a rapidly growing strain of independence, of confidence in self. All of which qualities have today evolved the best type of the American lady and gentleman.

Early in the second half of the eighteenth century, a literary revolution was in progress in England: sentimentalism, which so long had been mistaken for sentiment, was given its proper place; knightly romance was sneered at and shelved, the hale hearty laughter of Fielding disturbed the spinsters and gossip mongers sipping their tea in the corners; Laurence Sterne, that sentimentalist in realism, condemned in caricature what the foolish thought he defended in truth; and Sheridan, the hater of sham and conventionality, satirized the social deformity of the times in drama, drawing scenes and characters from real life as found in the famous Pump-room at Bath.

â To the aristocracy â hence to the reading class â of the young American republic this atmospheric change, toned and tempered and with an influence less radical, was transmitted. It cried out aloud against the sham of character, while it maintained the poetry of diction; it was realistic in subject, romantic in method; it openly lauded the "Sentimental Journey," while it secretly emulated "Tom Jones"; its aim was to portray life through truth rather than art â but the latter often unconsciously asserted itself; its grave defect was the attempt to commingle art and moral philosophy. In this literary atmosphere the "Power of Sympathy" was written, in character and color colonial, indigenous, to English soil, and true to humanity at all time.

A little more than a century ago the style of telling a story through the medium of epistles was revived; it was thus Richardson wrote "Clarissa Harlowe" and "Pamela," and Fielding his "Jose 3h Andrews." In this form Mrs. Morton sought to tell her story.

Both Richardson and Fielding are famous for the amount of detail with which they fetter some otherwise natural descriptions leaving no opportunity for the. imagination. Tedious detail we do not find in the pages of the. "Power of Sympathy" â all here is not written; the â phraseology is well balanced, paragraphing is handled with consummate skill, the chapters are for the most part short, the color suggestive; and if detail be employed at all, it is only when the author waxes mildly pedantic â robbed of which quality, she would not be true to the humanity of her time.

What then can I say of her diction? Simply that it is of the best. To say so, is seemingly audacious. The modern grammarian may dispute it. Yet viewed against the background of her period and station, taking her style all in all as a medium of vivid, natural expression, where the economy of at-tention is second only to striking portrayal, where elegance, simplicity, directness are ever present but never obtrusive,

there is reason enough for our remark. An examination of the suicide's letters alone would excuse us from all prejudice in the matter.

The "Power of Sympathy," in facsimile form, is surely a valuable acquisition to the antiquarian; to the student of culture, the book is the realistic expression of life of a people and an era that are by no means lacking in interest and importance; and to the litterateur, it is not an unworthy example of more than ordinary literary art.

WALTER LITTLEFIELD.

Boston, June 19, 1894.

NOVELS have ever met with a ready-reception into the Libraries of the Ladies, but this species of writing hath not been received with universal approbation: Futility is not the only charge brought against it. Any attempt, therefore, to make these studies more advantageous, has at least a claim upon the patience and candour of the publick.

IN NOVELS which expose no particular VICE, and which recommend no particular Virtue, the fair Reader, though she may find amusement, must finish them without being impressed with any' particular idea: So that if they are harmless, they are not beneficial.

PREFACE.

OF the Letters before US, it is necessary to remark, that this error on each side has been avoided. The dangerous consequences of SEDUCTION are exposed, and the Advantages of FEMALE EDUCATION set forth and recommended.

The Power of Sympathy.

LETTER I.

Harrington to Worthy.

YOU may now felicitate me. I have had an interview with the charmer I informed you of. Alas! where were the thoughtfulness and circumspection of my friend Worthy? I did not possess them, and am graceless enough to acknowledge it. He would have considered the consequences, before he had resolved upon the project. But you call me, with some degree of truth, a strange medley of contradiction. The moralist and the amoroso. The sentiment and the sensibility. Are interwoven in my constitution, so that nature and grace are at continual fisticuffs. To the point:

I PURSUED my determination of discovering the dweeing of my charmer, and have at length obtained access. You may behold my Rosebud, but should you presume to place it in your bosom, expect the force of my wrath to be the infallible consequence.

I DECLARED the sincerity of my passion. The warmth of my affection. To the beautiful Harriot. Believe me, Jack, she did not seem inattentive. Her mein is elegant. Her disposition inclining to the melancholy, and yet her temper is affable, and her manners easy. And as I poured my tender vows into the heart of my beloved, a crimson drop stole across her cheek, and thus I construe it in my own favor, as the sweet messenger of hope:

"DO not wholly despair, my new friend; excuse the declaration of a poor artless female. You see I am not perfectly contented in my situation. (Observe, I have not the vanity to think this distress altogether upon my account.) Time may therefore dis' close wonders, and perhaps more to your advantage than you imagine. Do not despair then."

SUCH vulgar, uncongenial souls, as that which animates thy clay, cold carcase, would have thought this crimson drop nothing more than an ordinary blush". Be far removed-from my heart such sordid, earth-born ideas: But come thou spirit of celestial language, that canst communicate by one affectionate lookâ one tender glanceâ more divine information to the soul of sensibility than can be contained in myriads of volumes!

HAIL gentle God of love! While thou rivetest rivetest the chains of thy slaves, how dost thou make them leap for joy, as with delicious triumph. Happy enthusiasm! that while it carries us away into captivity, can make the heart to dance as in the bosom of content. Hail gentle God of Love Encircled as thou art with darts, torments, and ensigns of cruelty, still do we hail thee. How dost thou smooth over the roughness and asperities of present pain, with what thou seest in reversion! Thou banishest the Stygian glooms of disquiet and suspense, by the hope of approaching Elysiumâ Blessed infatuation!

I DESIRE you will not hesitate to pronounce an amen to my Hymn to Love, as an unequivocal evidence of your wish for my success.

LETTER t: t joiner of smpatt)

LETTER 11.

Wdriky to Harrington.

"WISH you success"â In what? Who is this lady of whom you have been talking at such an inconsistent rate? But before you have leisure to reply to these inquiries you may have forgotten there is such a person, as she whom you call Harriot â I have seen many juvenile heroes, during my pilgrimage of two and twenty years, easily inflamed with new objectsâ agitated and hurried away by the impetuosity of new desiresâ and at the same time they were by no means famous for solidity of judgement, or remarkable for the permanency of their resolutions. There is such a tumultâ such an ebullition of the brain in their paroxysms of passion, that this new object is very superficially examined. These, added to partiality and prepossession, never fail to blind the eyes of the lover. Instead of weighing matters maturely, and stating the evidence fairly on both sides, in order to form a right judgement, every circumstance not perfectly coincident with your particular bias, comes not under consideration, because it does not flatter your vanity. "Ponder and pause " just here, and tell me seriously whether you are in love, and whether you have sufficiently examined your heart to give a just answer.

f DO you mean to insinuate that your declaration of love hath attracted the affection of the pensive Harriot? If this should be the case, I wish you would tell me what you design to do with her.

LETTER t)t IBoider of mpuw'

LETTER III.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I CANNOT but laugh at your dull sermons, and yet I find something in them altogether displeasing; for this reason I permit you to prate, on. " Weigh matters maturely! " Ha! ha! why art thou not arrayed in canonicals.? " What do I design to do with her t " Upon my word, my sententious friend, you ask mighty odd questions.

I see you aim a stroke at the foundation upon which the pillar of my new system is rearedâ and will you strive to batter down that pillar? If you entertain any idea of executing such talk, I foresee it will never succeed, and advise you timely to desist. What! dost thou think to topple down my scheme of pleasure? Thou mightest as well topple down the pike of Teneriffe.

I SUPPOSE you will be ready to ask, why, if I love Harriot, I do not marry her â Your monitorial correspondence has so accustomed me to reproof, that I easily anticipate this piece of impertinenceâ But who shall I marry? That is the question. Harriot has no father â no motherâ neither is there aunt, cousin, or kindred of any degree who claim any kind of relationship to her. She is companion to Mrs. Francis, and, as I understand, totally dependent on that lady. Now, Mr. Worthy, I must take the liberty to acquaint you, that I am not so much of a republican as formally to wed any person of this class. How laughable would my conduct appear, were I to trace over the same ground marked out by thy immaculate maculate footstepsâ To be heard openly acknowledged for my bosom companion, my daughter of the democrattick empire of virtue!

TO suppose a smart, beautiful girl, would continue as companion to the best lady in Christendom, when she could raise herself to a more eligible situation, is to suppose a solecism; â She might as well be immured in a nunnery. Now, Jack, I will shew you my benevolent scheme; it is to take this beautiful sprig, and transplant it to a more favorable soil, where it shall flourish and blossom under my own auspices. In a word, I mean to remove this fine girl into an elegant apartment, of which she herself is to be the sole mistress. Is this not a proof of my humanity and goodness of heart But I know the purport of your answerâ So pray thee keep thy comments to thyself, and be sparing of your compliments on this part of my conduct for I do lo l)e Ootocr of mpatl).

not love flattery. A month has elapsed since my arrival in town. What will the revolution of another moon bring forth?

Your c.

LETTER t)e joiner of fe mpatt).

LETTER IV.

Miss Harriot Fawcet to Miss Myra Harrington.

Boston.

I HAVE somehow bewitched a new lover, my dear Myra â a smart, clever fellow too â and the youth expresses such fondness and passion that I begin to feel afraid even to pity him â for love will certainly follow. I own to you I esteem him very much, but must I go any farther He is extremely generous â polite â gay â and I believe if you were to see him, your partiality in his favor would exceed mine.

I NEVER saw my poor swain so seemingly disconcerted disconcerted and abashed as he was a few days ago â he appeared to have something very particular to communicate, but his tongue faltered â ought not one to help out a modest youth in such cases?

Yours c.

LETTER

LETTER V.

Miss Myra Harrington to Mrs. Holmes.

Boston.

ARE the rural pleasures of Belle-view, my dear friend, so engaging as to debar us of the pleasure of your company forever? Do your dear groves, and your books, still employ your meditating mind? Serious sentimentalist as you are, let me ask, whether a Ball, a Concert or Serenade, would not afford you the satisfaction of a contemplative walk in your garden, listening to the love tales of the melodious inhabitants of the air?

RAILLERY apartâ when shall I take upon myself myself the honour to wait upon you here?â I want to advise with you on certain points of female conduct, and about my new dressâ I have heard you say, lessons to a volatile mind should be fresh and fresh applied, because it either pretends to despise them, or has a tendency to degeneracy â Now you must know I am actually degenerating for want of some of your Mentor-like lessons of instruction. I have scarcely any opinion of my own, these fashions, changing about so often, are enough to vitiate the best taste in the world.

I FORGOT to tell you my brother has been at home this month; but, from certain indubitable symptoms, I suspect the young man to be in love.

HEIGHHO! what is become of Worthy! The time of my liberty steals away, for you know I was to have three or four months of liberty liberty before I gave myself up to his authority, a"nd relinquished all my right and title to the name of

Harrington.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

Harriitgtoit to Worthy.

Boston.

ABASHED â confounded â defeated â I waited upon my beloved with my head well furnished with ready made arguments, to prevail on her to acquiesce in my benevolent schemes â she never appeared so amicable â grace accompanied every word she uttered, and every action she performed. " Think, my love," said I, in a tone something between sighing and tears, and took her hand in a very cordial manner, â " Think, my love, on your present, unhappy, menial situation, in the family of Mrs. Francis I enlarged on the violence of my passion â expatiated most metaphysically metaphysically on our future happiness; and concluded by largely answering objections. " Shall we not," continued I, " obey the dictates of nature, rather than confine ourselves to the forced, unnatural rules of and â and shall the halcyon days of youth slip through our fingers unenjoyed?"

DO you think, Worthy, I said this to Harriot? â Not a syllable of it. It was impossible â my heart had the courage to dictate, but my rebellious tongue refused to utter a word â it faltered â stammered â hesitated.

THERE is a language of the eyesâ and we conversed in that language; and though I said not a word with my tongue, she seemed perfectly to understand my meaning â for she looked â (and I comprehended it as well as if she had said) â Is the crime of dependence to be expiated by the sacrifice of virtue?

And because I am a poor, unfortunate girl, must the little I have be taken from me? " No, my love," answered I, passionately, " it shall not be."

OF all those undescribable things which influences the mind, and which are most apt to persuade â none is so powerful an orator â so feelingly eloquent as beauty â I bow to the all-conquering force of Harriot's eloquence â and what is the consequence? I am now determined to continue my addresses on a principle the most just, and the most honourable.

HOW amiable is that beauty which has its foundation in goodness! Reason cannot contemplate its power with indifferenceâ Wisdom cannot refrain from enthusiasm â and the sneering exertions of Wit cannot render it ridiculous. There is a dignity in conscious virtue that all my independence cannot bring me to despise â and if it be beauty that subdues my heart, it is this that completes the triumph â It is here my pompous parade, and all my flimsy subterfuges, appear to me in their proper light. In fine, I have weighed â matters maturely, and the alternative is â Harriot must be mine, or I miserable without her. â I have so well weighed the matter that even this idea is a flash of joy to my heart â But, my friend, after the lightning comes the thunder â my father is mortally averse to my making any matrimonial engagement at so early a period â this is a bar to my way, but I must leap over it.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER VII.

Mrs. Holmes to Miss Harrington.

Bellevue.

ALTHOUGH my attachment to Bellevue is not so romantick as your airy pen has described it, I think its quiet and amusements infinitely preferable to the bustle and parade with which you are surrounded.

THE improvements made here by my late husband (who inherited the virtues of his parents, who still protect me, and endeavour to console the anguish of his loss by the most tender affection) have rendered the charms of Bellevue superiour in my estimation to every gilded scene of the gay world.

IT is almost vanity to pretend to give you a description a description of the beauty of the prospect â the grandeur of the river that rolls through the meadow in front of the house, or any eulogium of rural elegance, because these scenes are common to most places in the country. Nature is everywhere liberal in dispersing her beauties and her variety â and I pity those who look round and declare they see neither.

A GREAT pro portion of our happiness de-pends on om own choice. â it offers itself to our taste, but it is the heart that gives it relish â what at one time, for instance, we think, to be humour, is at another disgusting or insipidâ so, unless we carry our appetite with us to the treat, we shall vainly wish to make ourselves happy, " were I in a desert," says Sterne, "I would find wherewith in it to call forth my affections â If I could do no better, I would fasten them on some sweet myrtle.

myrtle, or seek some melancholy cypress to connect myself toâ I wbuld court their shade and greet them kindly for their protection â If their leaves withered, I would teach myself to mourn, and when they rejoiced, I would rejoice along with them."

I BELIEVE you could hardly find the way to the summer house, where we have enjoyed many happy hours together, and which you used to call " TAe Temple of

Applo." It is now more elegantly furnished than it formerly was, and is enriched with a considerable addition to the library and musick.

IN front of the avenue that leads to this place, is a fig-ure of Content, pointing with one hand to the Temple, and with the other to an invitation, executed in such an antique style, that you would think it done either by the ancient inhabitants of the country, or by the hand of a Fairy â she is very particular in the characters she invites, but those whom she invites she heartily welcomes.

ISural Inscription.

Come ye who loath the horrid crest,

Who hate the fiery front of Mars; Who scorn the mean, the sordid breast â

Who fly Ambition's guilty cares: Ye who are blest with peaceful souls.

Rest Here: Enjoy the pleasures round: Here Fairies quaffe their acorn bowls,

And lightly print the mazy ground.

Thrice welcome to this humble scene â (To ye alone such scenes belong) Peace smiles upon the fragrant green,

And Here the Woodland sisters throng, And fair Contentment's pleasing train.

Whilst in the Heav'n the stars advance, With many a maid and many a swain.

Lead up the jocund, rural dance.

Thrice welcome to our calm retreat, Where innocency oft hath strove

With

With violet blue, and woodbine sweet, To- form the votive wreath to love:

Of pardon then, our cautious pride â (Caution, a virtue rare, I ween)

For evils with the great abide,

Which dwell not in our sylvan scene.

THESE are the scenes to which I have chosen to retreat; contented with the suffrage of the virtuous and the good, and inattentive to the contemptuous sneer of the giddy and the futile, for even Aese have the vanity to look with pity on those who voluntarily remove from whatever agrees with Aetr ideas of pleasure. He who has no conception of the beauties of the mind, will condemn a person awkward or illfavoured; and one whose store of enjoyment is drawn from affluence and abundance, will be astonished at the conduct of him who finds cause to rejoice, though surrounded with inconvenience and penury. Hence we judge of the happiness of others others by the standard of our own conduct and prejudices.

FROM this misjudging race I retire, without a sigh to mingle in their amusements, nor yet disgusted at whatever is thought of sufficient consequence to engage their pursuits. I fly from the tumult of the town â from scenes of boisterous pleasures and riot, to those of quietness and peace; " where every breeze breathes health, and every sound is the echo of tranquillity."â On this subject I give my sentiments to you with freedom, from a conviction that I bear the world no spleen; at the same time with a degree of deference to the judgement of others, from a conviction that I may be a little prejudiced.

I HOPE to be with j ou. soon â in the-meantime continue to write.

Eliza Holmes.

LETTER

LETTER VIII. Worthy to Harrington.

New York.

I APPLAUD your change of sentiment. Harriot is a good girl, and your conduct is extremely praiseworthy and honourable. It is what her virtues incontestibly merit. But I advise you certainly to gain your father's approbation before you proceed so far as to be unable to return. A contrary step might terminate in the utter ruin of you both. Direct to me at Belleview for I intend to stop there in my return to Boston.

LETTER

LETTER IX. Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I HAVE had a conversation with my father on the subject of early marriages, but to no purpose. I will not be certain whether he understood my drift, but all his arguments are applicable to my situation. One must be an adept to argue with him; and interested as he thinks himself in the result of the debate, he can not be prevailed upon to relinquish his settled opinion. I am too much chagrined to write to you even the heads of our conversation. I now stand upon my old ground.

Adieu!

LETTER to Jonathan of Amherst, T2,

LETTER X.

Worthy to Myra.

Belleview.

I AM very happy at present enjoying the sweets of Belleview with our excellent friend Mrs. Holmes. To dwell in this delightful retreat, and to be blest with the conversation of this amiable woman, cannot be called solitude. The charms of Nature are here beheld in the most luxuriant variety. It is here, diversified with beautiful prospect, the late Mr. Holmes planned his garden; it is elegant, but simple. My time glides off my hands most happily. I am sometimes indulging my solitary reflections in contemplating the sublimity of the scenes around me. And sometimes in conversation with JSza and the old people.

THE old gentleman is a man of the most benevolent heart; he continues to preach. He is assiduous in the duties of his profession, and is the love and admiration of his flock. He prescribes for the health of the body, as well as that of the soul, and settles all the little disputes of his parish. They are contented with his judgement, and he is at once their parson, their lawyer, and their physician. I often read in the little building that was finished by his son. He was a man of an excellent taste, and I have paid my tribute to his memory. It is the same place that you used to admire, and perhaps I improve more of my time in it on that very account.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XL

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Belleview.

I SIT down to give you, my dear Myra, some accounts of the visitants of to-day, and their conversation. We are not always distinguished by such company, but perhaps it is sometimes necessary; and as it is a relaxation from thought, it serves to give us more pleasure in returning to the conversation of people of ideas.

MRS. Bourn assumes a higher rank in life than she pretended to seven years ago. She then walked on foot she now, by good fortune, rides in a chariot. Placed, however, in a situation a situation with which her education does not altogether comport, she has nothing disagreeable but her over assiduity to please this is sometimes disgusting, for one cannot feast heartily upon honey: It is an error which a candid mind easily forgives. She sometimes appears solicitous to display her mental accomplishments, and desirous to improve those of her daughter; but it is merely apparent. Notwithstanding a temporary wish may arise toward the attainment of this point, a habitual vacancy nips it in the bud.

MISS Bourn is about the age of fourteen genteel, with a tolerable share of beauty, but not striking her dress was elegant, but might have been adjusted to more advantage not altogether awkward in her manner, nor yet can she be called graceful she has a peculiar air of drollery which takes her by its, and for this reason, perhaps, does not avail herself of every opportunity of displaying the modesty of her sex she has seen much company, but instead of polishing her manners, it has only increased her assurance.

THUS much of the characters of our company. After some small chat which passed as we took a turn in the garden, we entered the Temple.

"WHAT books would you recommend to put into the hands of my daughter?" said Mrs. Bourn as she walked into the library "it is a matter of some importance." "It is a matter of more importance," answered Worthy, "than is generally imagined unless a proper selection is made one would do better never to read at all: Now, Madame, as much depends on the choice of books, care should be taken not to put those in the way of young persons, which might leave on their minds any disagreeable prejudices, or which has a tendency to corrupt their feelings." "As obvious as your remark is," added Mr. Holmes, "it is evidently overlooked in the common course of education. We wisely exclude those persons from our conversation, whose characters are bad, whose manners are depraved, or whose morals are impure: but if they are excluded from an apprehension of contaminating our minds, how much more dangerous is the company of those books, where the strokes aimed at virtue are redoubled, and the poison of vice, by repeatedly reading the same thing, indelibly stains the young mind?"

"WE all agree," rejoined Worthy, "that it is as great a matter of virtue and prudence to be circumspect in the selection of our books, as in the choice of our company. But, Sir, the best things may be subverted to an ill use. Hence we may possibly trace the course of the ill tendency of many of the Novels extant."

"MOST of the Novels," returned my father, "with which our female libraries are over run, are built on a foundation not always placed on strict morality, and in the pursuit of objects not always probable or praiseworthy. Novels, not regulated on the chaste principles of true friendship, rational love, and connubial duty, appear to me totally unfit to form the minds of women, of friends, or of wives."

"BUT, as most young people read," says Mrs. Bourn "what rule can be laid upon to make study always terminate to advantage?"

"Â IMPOSSIBLE," cried Miss, "for I read as much as anybody, and though it may afford amusement, amusement, while I am employed, I do not remember a single word, when I lay down the book."

"THIS confirms what I say of Novels," cried Mr. Holmes, addressing Worthy in a jocular manner, "just calculated to kill time â to attract the attention of the reader for an hour, but leave not one idea on the mind."

"I AM far from condemning every production in the gross," replied Worthy; "general satire against any particular class, or order of men, may be viewed in the same light as a satire against species â it is the same with books â if there are corrupt or mortified members, it is hardly fair to destroy the whole body. Now I grant some Novels have a bad tendency, yet there are many which contain excellent sentiments â let these receive their deserved reward â let those be discountenanced; countenanced; and if it is impossible "to smite them with an apoplexy, there is a moral, certainty of their dying of a consumption." â But, as Mrs. Bourn observes, most young persons read, I will recommend to those who wish to mingle instruction with entertainment, method and regularity in reading. To dip into any book burthens the mind with unnecessary lumber, and may rather be called a disadvantage, than a benefitâ The record of memory is so scrawled and blotted with imperfect ideas, that not one legible character can be traced.

"WERE I to throw my thoughts on this subject," said my good father-in-law, as he began to enter more and more warmly into the ' debate â drawing his chair opposite Worthy, and raising his hand with a poetical enthusiasmâ "Were I to throw my thoughts on this subject into an Allegory, I would describe the human mind as an extensive plain, and knowledge as the river that should water it. If the course of the river be properly directed, the plain will be fertilized and cultivated to advantage; but if books, which are the sources that feed this river, rush into it from every quarter, it will overflow its banks, and the plain become inundated: When, therefore, knowledge flows on in its proper channel, this extensive and valuable field, the mind, instead of being covered with stagnant waters, is cultivated to the utmost advantage, and it blooms luxuriantly into a general efflorescence â for a river properly restricted by high banks, is necessarily progressive."

THE old gentleman brought down his hands with great solemnity, and we complimented him on his poetical exertion. "I cannot comprehend the meaning of this matter," said the penetrative Miss Bourn. "I will explain plain it to you, my little dear," said he, with good natureâ "If you read with any design to improve your mind in virtue and every amiable accomplishment, you should be careful to read methodically, which will enable you to form an estimate of the various topics discussed in company, and to bear a part in all those conversations which belong to your sexâ you see, therefore, how necessary general knowledge isâ what would you think of a woman advanced in life, who has no other store of knowledge than what she has obtained from experience?" "I think she would have a sorry time of it," answered Miss.

"TO prevent it in yourself," said Mrs. Bourn to her daughter, "be assiduous to lay in a good stock of this knowledge, while your mind is yet free from prejudice and care."

. "HOW shall I go to work. Madam.?" enquired the delicate daughter.

MRS."

MRS. Bourn turned toward Mr. Holmes, which was hint enough for the good old man to proceed.

"THERE is a medium to be observed," continued he, "in a lady's reading; she is not to receive everything she finds, even in the best books, as invariable lessons of conduct; in books written in an easy, flowing style, which excel in description and the luxuriance of fancy, the imagination is apt to get heated â she ought, therefore, to discern with an eye of judgement, between the superficial and penetrating â the elegant and the tawdry â what may be merely amusing, and what may be useful. General reading will not teach her a true knowledge of the world.

"IN books she finds recorded the faithfulness of friendship â the constancy of true love, and even that honesty is the best policy.

If virtue is represented carrying its reward with it, she too easily persuades herself that mankind have adopted this plan: Thus she finds, when, perhaps, it is too late, that she has entertained wrong notions of human nature; that her friends are deceitful â her lovers false â and that men consult interest oftener than honesty.

"A YOUNG lady who has imbibed her ideas of the world from desultory reading and placed confidence in the virtue of others, will bring back disappointment, when she expected gratitude. Unsuspicious of deceit, she is easily deceived â from the purity of her own thoughts, she trusts the faith of mankind, until experience convinces her of her error â she falls a sacrifice to her credulity, and her only consolation is the simplicity and goodness of her heart.

"THE

"THE story of Miss Whitman is an emphatical illustration of the truth of these observations. An inflated fancy not restricted

THIS young lady was of a reputable family in Connecticut. In her youth she was admired for beauty and good sense. She was a great reader of novels and romances, and having imbibed her ideas of the characters OF MEN, from those fallacious sources, became vain and coquettish, and rejected several offers of marriage, in expectation of receiving one more agreeable to her fanciful idea. Disappointed in her fairy hope, and finding her train of admirers less solicitous for the honour of her hand, in proportion as the roses of youth decayed, she was the more easily persuaded to relinquish that stability which is the honour and happiness of the sex. The consequences of her amour becoming visible, she acquainted her lover of her situation, and a HUSBAND was proposed for her, who was to receive a considerable sum for preserving the reputation of the lady; but having received security for payment, he immediately withdrew. She then left her friends, and travelled in the stage as far as Watertown, where she hired a young man to conduct her in a chaise to Salem. Here she wandered alone and friendless, and at length repaired to the Bell-Tavern, in Danvers, where she was delivered of a lifeless child, and in about a fortnight after (in July, 1788) died of a puerperal fever, age about 35 years.

Before her death she amused herself with reading, writing and needlework, and though in a state of anxiety, preserved a cheerfulness, not so much the effect of insensibility, by judgement, leads too often to dissipation and repentance. Such will be the fate of those who become (to use her own words)

"Lost in the magick of that sweet employ,

"To build GAY SCENES and fashion future joy."

"WITH a good heart she possessed a poetical imagination, and an unbounded thirst for novelty; but these airy talents, not counterpoised with judgement, or perhaps serious reflection sensibility, as of patience and fortitude. She was sensible of her approaching fate, as appears from the following letter, which was written in characters.

"MUST I die alone? Shall I never see you more? I know that you will come, but you will come too late: This is I fear, my last ability. Tears fall so, I know not how to write. Why did you leave me in so much distress.â â But I will not reproach you: All that was dear I left for you; but do not regret it. â May God forgive in both what was amiss: When I go from hence, I will leave you some way to find me; if I die, will you come and drop a tear over my grave?"

In the following Poem, she, like the dying Swan, sings her own Elegy, and it is here added, as a sorrowful instance, how often the best, and most pleasing talents, flection, instead of adding to her happiness, were the cause of her ruin."

not accompanied by virtue and prudence, operate the destruction of their possessor.

The description of her unfortunate passion, will remind the critical reader of the famous ode of Sappho. In genius and in misfortune, these poetical ladies were similar.

"DISAPPOINTMENT.

"WITH fond impatience all the tedious day I sigh'd, and wish'd the lingering hours away; Por when bright Hesper led the starry train, My shepherd swore to meet me on the plain; With eager haste to that dear spot I flew. And linger'd long, and then with tears withdrew: Alone, abandon'd to love's tenderest woes, Down my pale cheeks the tide of sorrow flows; Dead to all joys that fortune can bestow, In vain for me her useless bounties flow; Take back each envied gift, ye pow'rs divine. And only let me call FIDELIO mine.

"Ah, wretch! what anguish yet thy soul must prove,. Ere thou canst hope to lose thy care in love; And when FIDELIO meets thy tearful eye. Pale fear and cold despair his presence fly; With pensive steps, I sought thy walks again, And kiss'd thy token on the verdant plain; With fondest hope, thro' many a blissful bow'r. We gave the soul to fancy's pleasing pow'r;

Lost

"I CONCLUDE from your reasoning," said I, "and it is besides, my own opinion, that many fine girls have been ruined by reading Novels."

"AND

Lost in the magick of that sweet employ, To build gay scenes, and fashion future joy. We saw mild peace o'er fair Canaan rise. And show'r her blessings from benignant skies; On airy hills our happy mansion rose, Built but for joy, no room for future woes; Sweet as the sleep of innocence, the day, (By transports measur'd) lightly danc'd away; To love, to bliss, the union'd soul was given, And each! too happy, ask'd no brighter heaven.

"And must the hours in ceaseless anguish roll?

Will no soft sunshine cheer my clouded soul?

Can this dear earth no transient joy supply?

Is it my doom to hope, despair and die?

Oh! come, once more, with soft endearments come.
 Burst the cold prison of the sullen tomb;
 Through favour'd walks, thy chosen maid attend.
 Where well known shades their pleasing branches bend.
 Shed the soft poison from thy speaking eye,
 And look those raptures lifeless words deny;
 Still be, though late, reheard what ne'er could tire.
 But, told each eve, fresh pleasures would inspire;
 Still hope those scenes which love and fancy drew;
 But, drawn a thousand times, were ever new.
 "Can fancy paint, can words express; Can aught on earth my woes redress;
 E'en

"AND I believe," added Mrs. Bourn, " we may trace from hence the causes of spleen in many persons advanced in life."

"YOU mean old maids, Madam," cries the sagacious Miss, "like my aunt Deborah â she calls all men deceitful, and most women, with her, are no better than they should be."

"WELL said! " exclaimed Worthy, " the recollection of chargin and former disappointment, sours one's temper and mortifies the heart â disappointment will be more or less severe

E'en thy soft smiles can ceaseless prove Thy truth, thy tenderness and love. Once thou couldst every bliss inspire, Transporting JOY, and gay DESIRE: Now cold DESPAIR her banner rears, And PLEASURE flies when she appears; Fond HOPE within my bosom dies. And AGONY her place supplies: O, thou! for whose dear sake I bear, A doom so dreadful, so severe. May happy fates thy footsteps guide, And o'er thy peaceful home preside; Nor let ELIZA'S early tomb Infect thee, with its baleful gloom."

severe in proportion as we elevate our expectations; for the most sanguine tempers are the soonest discouraged; as the highest building is in the most danger of falling."

"IT appears from what I have said," resumed Mr. Holmes, " that those books which teach us a knowledge of the world are useful to form the minds of females, and ought therefore to be studied."

I MENTIONED Rochefoucault's maxims.â

"DO they not degrade human nature t enquired my father.

"THIS little book," answered Worthy, "contains much truth â and those short sketches traced by the hand of judgement, present to us the leading features of mankind." "But,"

replied my father, " that interest should assume all shapes, is a doctrine, which, in my mind, represents a caricature rather than a living picture." " It is the duty of a painter to produce a likeness," said Worthy, â " And a skilful one," cried my father, continuing the metaphor, " will bring the amiable qualities of the heart to light; and throw those which disgrace humanity into the shade." " I doubt," rejoined Worthy, " whether this flattery will answer the purpose you aim to accomplish â You entertain a high opinion of the dignity of human nature, and are displeased at the author who

advances anything derogatory to that dignity. Swift, in speaking of these maxims, in one of his best poems, affirms,

"They argue no corrupted mind " In him â the fault is in mankind."

"AS I began this subject," added I, "it shall be ended by one observationâ As these maxims give us an idea of the manners and characters of men, among whom a young person is soon to appear; and as it is necessary to her security and happiness that she be made acquainted with them â they may be read to advantage."

"THERE is another medium," said Mr. Holmes, assenting to my observation, "to be noticed in the study of a lady â she takes up a book, either for instruction or entertainment â the medium hes in knowing when to put it down. Constant application becomes labour â it sours the temper â gives an air of thoughtfulness, and frequently of absence. By immoderate reading wâ-hqaxd upâ opinions and become insensibly attached to them; this miserly conduct sinks us to affectation, and disgusting pedantry; conversation only can remedy this dangerous evil, strengthen the judgment, and make reading really useful. They mutually depend, upon, and assist each other.

"A KNOWLEDGE of HISTORY which exhibits to us in one view the rise, progress and decay of nations â which points out the advancement of the mind in society, and the improvements in the arts which adorn human nature, comes with propriety under the notice of a lady. To observe the origin of civilizationâ the gradual progress of society, and the refinements of manners, policy, morality and religion â to observe the progress of mankind from simplicity to luxury, from luxury to effeminacy, and the gradual steps of the decline of empire, and the dissolution of states and kingdoms, must blend that happy union of instruction and entertainment, which never fails to win our attention to the pursuit of all subjects.

"POETRY claims her due from the ladies.

POETRY

POETRY enlarges and strengthens the mind, refines the taste and improves the judgement. It has been asserted that women have no business with satire â now satire is but a branch of poetry. I acknowledge, however, much false wit is sent into the world, under this general title; but no critic with whom I am acquainted ever called satire false wit â for as long as vice and folly continue to predominate in the human heart, the satirist will be considered as a useful member of society. I believe Addison calls him an auxiliary to the pulpit. Suffer me to enlarge on this new idea. Satire is the correction of the vices and follies of the human heart; a woman may, therefore, read it to advantage. What I mean by enforcing this point, is, to impress the minds of females with a principle of self correction; for among all kinds of knowledge which arise from reading, the duty of self-knowledge is a very eminent one; and is at the same time, the most useful and important.

"OUR ordinary intercourse with the world, will present to us in a very clear point of view, the fallacious ideas we sometimes entertain of our own self knowledge. â We are blinded by pride and self love, and will not observe our own imperfections, which we blame with the greatest acrimony in other people, and seem to detest with the greatest abhorrence; so that, it often happens, while we are branding our neighbour for some foible, or vanity, we ourselves are equally guilty.

"RIDICULOUS as this conduct must appear in the eyes of all judicious people, it is too frequently practised to escape observation.

"I WILL drop this piece of morahy, with a charge to the fair reader, that whenever she discovers discovers satire, ridiculing or recriminating the follies or crimes of mankind, that she look into her own heart, and compare the strictures on the conduct of others with her own feelings."

LETTER

LETTER XII.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

In Continuation.

MY good father-in-law being so strenuous in proving the ehgibihty of reading satire, had spurn out, what he called his new idea, to such a metaphysical nicety, that he unhappily diminished, the number of his hearers; for Mrs. Bourn, to whom he directed his discourse, had taken down a book and was reading to herself, and Miss was diverting herself with the cuts in Gays Fables.

A CONSIDERABLE silence ensued, which Worthy first broke, by asking Mrs. Bourn what book she had in her hand.

Everyone's

Everyone's attention was alarmed at this important enquiry. Mrs. Bourn, with little difficulty, found the title page, and began to read. "A Sentimental Journey through France and Italy, by Mr. Yorick."

"I ~~DO~~ not like the title" said Miss Bourn.

"WHY, my dear!" apostrophized the mother, "you are mistaken â it is a very famous book."

"WHY, my dear! " retorted the daughter, "It is sentimental â I abominate everything that is sentimental â it is so unfashionable too."

"I NEVER knew before," said Mr. Holmes, " that wit was subject to caprice of fashion."

"WHY 'Squire Billy," returned Miss, " who is just arrived from the centre of politeness politeness and fashion, says the bettermost genii never read any sentimental books â so you see sentiment is out of date."

THE company rose to go out.â

"SENTIMENT out of date!" cries Worthy, repeating the words of Miss Bourn, and taking the book from her mother, as she walked towards the door â " Sentiment out of date â alas! poor Yorick â may thy pages never be soiled by the fingers of prejudice." He continued his address to them, as they went out, in the same Shandean tone â "These antisentimentalists would banish thee from the society of all books! Unto what a pitiful size are the race of readers dwindled! Surely these antis have more to do with thee, than the gods of the Canaanites â In character and understanding they are alike â eyes have they, but they see not â ears have they, but they hear not, neither is there any knowledge edge to be found in them." "It is hardly worth while to beat it into them," said my father-in-law, " so let us follow the company."

WE did so â they walked toward the house, and Worthy and myself brought up the rear.

I COULD not but remark, as we went on, that Miss Bourn had spoken the sentiments of many of her sex; "and whence," said I to Worthy, "arises this detestation of books in some of us females, and why are they enemies to anything that may be called sentiment and conversation: I grant it often happens there is such rapidity of speeches that one may be at a loss to distinguish the speakers; but why is there such a calm silence, should an unfortunate sentiment inadvertently "I will tell you," interrupted he, "You all read, and it is from the books which engage your attention, that you generally imbibe your ideas of the principal principal subjects discussed in company "now, the books which employ your hours of study, happen to be Novels; and the subjects contained in these Novels are commonly confined to dress, balls, visiting, and the like edifying topicks; does it not follow, that these must be the subjects of your conversation? I will not dispute whether the Novel makes the woman, or the woman makes the Novel; or whether they are written to engage your attention, or flatter your vanity. I believe the results will shew they depend, in some measure, upon each other; and an uninformed woman, by reading them, only augments the number of her futile ideas. The female mind, notwithstanding, is competent to any talk, and the accomplishments of an elegant woman depend on a proper cultivation of her intelligent powers; a barrenness a sterility of conversation immediately discovers where this cultivation is wanting."

"GIVE

"GIVE me leave," answered I, "to espouse the cause of this class of females. Tell me candidly, Mr. Worthy, whether that insipid flattery, perhaps sacrificed at the expense of truth, does not misguide many of us into erroneous paths? You declare we are handsome and your conduct demonstrates you to be more solicitous for the possession of beautiful than of fœtal charms. Hence is the deluded female persuaded of the force of her fascinating powers, and vainly imagines, one glance of her eye sufficient to reduce a million of hearts whenever she chooses: Her aims, therefore, are confined to the decoration of her person, and her views centre solely in finishing herself in those attractive, all-powerful graces, with which you declare yourselves to be enchanted. How then are they to be censured for neglecting to improve the mind, when your adulation diverts their attention to an external object?"

"I JOIN

"I JOIN with you," replied Worthy, "in calling it insipid flattery and the vain coxcomb, the powdered beau, the insignificant petit maitre, are those who make use of it. Will women of real merit, and sound sense, believe what is said by them to be their real sentiments? No There must be a congeniality in the minds of those who give and receive flattery Has not the vain coquette as much, inclination to be thought a goddess, as the empty admirer to declare her so?

"FLATTERY is become a kind of epidemical distemper: many run into it, perhaps, without designing it, or only through civility. There are some women who expect it who dress to be admired and who deem it a mark of impoliteness and rudeness in men, who do not pay them the tribute of compliment and adulation. A man of sense may comply with their expectation he will still think then; agreeable playthings, to divert him at an hour of relaxation; but I cannot suppose he will entertain any serious thoughts of a more permanent connection.

"MAY we not conclude these things to be productive of many evils that happen in societyâ do they not frighten all sentiment from conversation â introduce affectation â pride â envy â clandestine marriages â elopementsâ division of families â and ultimately terminate in the ruin of very many innocent, but inconsiderate females?"

By this time we had got into the house, and our company soon after departed, leaving us at full leisure to contemplate on the many wrong ideas entertained, and fallacious steps pursued by the generality of mankind, in the sentimental part of female education.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XIII.

Worthy to Myra.

Bellevue.

A PEACEFUL, recluse life, is suited to my temper â there is something in the soft breath of Nature â in the delicacy of smiling meadows and cultivated fields â in the sublimity of an aged wood â of broken rocks â of rivers pouring along their lucid waves, to which the heart always give a ready reception â there is something within us congenial to these scenes; they impress the mind with ideas similar to what we feel in beholding one whom we tenderly esteem.

I WAS making this observation to Mrs. Holmes, and she told me I was in love â "These are the very scenes," said she, "which your beloved Myra used to praise and admirê, and for which you, by a secret sympathy, entertain the same predilection. The piece of embroidery which she worked at an early age, and which ornaments the Temple, I have seen you gaze upon several times â you seem to trace perfection in every part of it, because it was executed by the hand of Myra."

I ACKNOWLEDGE I have often gazed upon it (as Mrs. Holmes terms it) but did not recollect it to be a piece of your work. I stole an opportunity to revisit it by myself and I instantly remembered it â I remembered when you finished it, and all the happy, inoffensive scenes of our childhood, returned fresh upon my heart.

IT is the work Myra, said I to myself â

Did not her fingers trace these beautiful expanding flowers?"â Did she not give to this carnation its animated glow, and to this opening rose its languishing grace? Removed as I am â continued I in a certain interior language that every son of nature possesses â Removed as I am, from the amiable object of my tenderest affection, I have nothing to do but to admire this offspring of industry and art â It shall yield more fragrance to my soul than all the bouquets in the universe.

I DID not care to pursue the thought â it touched a delicate string â at first, however, I flattered myself I should gain some consolation â but I lost in every reflection.

I CONSIDERED the work as coming from your hand, and was delighted the more with it. A piece of steel that has been rubbed with a loadstone, retains the power of attract- ing small bodies of iron: So the beauties of this embroidery, springing from your hands, continue to draw my attention, and fill the mind with ideas of the artist. i

Farewell!

LETTER

LETTER XIV.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

HOW incompetent is the force of words to express some peculiar sensations! Expression is feeble when emotions are exquisite.

I WISH you could be here to see with what ease and dignity everything comes from the hand of Harriot â I cannot give a description equivalent to the great idea I wish to convey â You will tell me I am in love â What is love? I have been trying to investigate its nature â to strip it of its mere term, and consider it as it may be supported by-principleâ I might as well search for the philosopher's stone.

EVERY one is ready to praise his mistress â she is always described in her " native simplicity," as " an angel" with a " placid mein," "mild, animated," "altogether captivating," and at length the talk of description is given up as altogether " undescribable." Are not all these in themselves bare, insignificant words? The world has so long been accustomed to hear the sound of them, that the idea is lost. But to the question â What is love? Unless it is answered now, perhaps it never will be. Is it not an infinitude of graces that accompany everything said by Harriot? That adorn all she does.? They must not be taken severally â they cannot be contemplated in the abstract. â If you proceed to chymical analysis, their tenuous essence will will evaporateâ they are in themselves nothing; but the aggregate is love.

WHEN an army composed of a great number of men, moves slowly on at a distance, nobody thinks of considering a single soldier.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XV.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

AM I to believe my eyes â my ears â my heart! â and yet I cannot be deceived.â We are generally most stupid and incredulous in what most materially concerns us. We find the greatest difficulty in persuading ourselves of the attainments of what we most ardently desire â She loves! â I say to myself, "Harriot loves me," and I reverence myself.

I THINK I may now take upon me some share of happiness â I may say I have not lived in vain â for all my heart holds dear is mine â joy and love encompass me â peace and tranquillity are before me; the prospect is fair and promising as the gilded dawn of a summer's day â There is none to supplant me in her affections â I dread no rival, for our tempers are similar, and our hearts beat in unison together.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XVI.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

LOVE softens and refines the manners â polishes the asperities of awkward-ness, and fits us for the society of gentle beings. It goes further, it mends the heart, and makes us better men â it gives the fainthearted an extraordinary strength of soul, and renders them equal and frequently superior to danger and distress.

MY passions you know are quick, my prejudices sometimes obstinate â She tells me these things are wrong â This gentle reprimand is so tempered with love that I think she commands me. I however promise a reform, and am much pleased with my improvement. Harriot moulds my heart into what form she chooses.

A LITTLE party is proposed to-morrow evening and I shall attend Harriot. These elegant relaxations prevent the degeneracy of human nature, exhilarate the spirits, and wind up this machine of ours for another revolution of business.

LETTER

LETTER XVII.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston. OUR little party was overthrown by a strange piece of folly. A Miss

P was introduced, a young lady of beauty and elegant accomplishments. The whole company were beginning to be cheerful â business and care were disgusted at the sight of so many happy countenances, and had gone out from among us. Jollity and good humour bade us prepare for the dance â unhappily at this juncture a lady and a gentleman were engaged in a conversation concerning Miss

P, and one of them repeated the words

"a mechanick's daughter " â it is supposed the word word " mechanick " was repeated scornfully â She heard itâ thought herself insultedâ and indignantly retired â disorder and confusion immediately took place, and the amusement was put an end to for the evening.

I WISH people would consider how little time they have to frolick here â that they would improve it to more advantage, and not dispute for, any precedence or superiority but in good nature and sociability â "a mechanick " â and pray whence the distinction!

INEQUALITY among mankind is a foe to our happiness â it even affects our little parties of pleasure â Such is the fate of the human race, one order of men lords it over another; but upon what grounds its right is founded I could never yet be satisfied.

FOR this reason, I like a democrattickal better than any other kind of government; and were I a Lycurgus no distinction of rank should be found in my commonwealth.

IN my tour through the United States, I had an opportunity of examining and comparing the different manners and dispositions of the inhabitants of the several republicks. Those of the southern states, accustomed to a habit of domineering over their slaves, are haughtier, more tenacious of honour, and indeed possess more of an aristocratick temper than their sisters of the confederacy. As we travel to the northward, the nature of the constitution seems to operate on the minds of the peopleâ slavery is abolishedâ all men are declared free and equal, and their tempers are open, generous and communicative. It is the same in all those countries where the people enjoy independence and equal liberty. Why then should those distinctions arise which are inimical to domestick quietude." Or why should should the noisy voice of those who seek distinction, so loudly reechoe in the ears of peace and jollity, as to deafen the sound of the mus-ick? For while we are disputing who shall lead off the dance, behold! the instrument gets out of tune â a string snaps â and where is our chance for dancing?

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XVIII.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

MY beloved has left me for a while â she has attended Mrs. Francis in a journey to Rhodeislandâ and here am I â anxious â solitary â alone! â

NO thoughts, but thoughts of Harriot, are permitted to agitate me. She is in my view all the day long, and when I retire to rest my my imagination is still possessed with ideas of

Harriot.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XIX.

Harrington to Harriot.

Boston.

IF a wish, arising from the most tender affection, could transport me to the object of my love, I persuade myself that you would not be troubled with reading this letter.

YOU must expect nothing like wit or humour, or even common sense, from me; wit and humour are flown with you, and your return only can restore them. I am sometimes willing to persuade myself that this is the case â I, think I hear the well-known voice, I look around me with the ecstasy of Orpheus, but that look breaks the charm, I find myself self alone, and my Eurydice vanished to the shades.

I HOPE you will not permit yourself to grow envious of the beauties of Rhodeisland. Of the force of their charms I am experimentally acquainted. Wherever fortune has thrown me, it has been my happiness to imagine myself in love with some divine creature or other; and after all it is but truth to declare that the passion was seated more in fancy than the heart; and it is justice to acknowledge to you that I am now more provident of my passion, and never suffer the excursion of fancy, except when I am so liberal as to admit the united beauty of the Rhodeisland ladies in competition with yours.

WHERE there are handsome women there will necessarily be fine gentlemen, 'and should they be smitten with yout external graces, I cannot but lament their deplorable situation, when when they discover how egregiously they have been cheated. What must be his disappointment, who thought himself fascinated by y- beauty, when he finds he has unknowingly been charmed by reason and virtue!

BUT this you will say contains a sentiment of jealousy, and is but a transcript of my apprehensions and gloomy anxieties: When will your preference, like the return of the sun in the spring, which dispels glooms, and reanimates the face of nature, quiet these apprehensions? If it be not in a short time, I shall proceed on a journey to find you out; until then I commit you to the care of your guardian angel.

LETTER

LETTER XX.

Harrington to Harriot.

Boston.

LAST night I went on a visit to your house: It was an adventure that would have done honour to the; Knight of La Mancha. The moon ascended a clear, serene sky,

the air was still, the bells sounded the solemn hour of midnight â I sighed â and the reason of it I need not tell you. This was, indeed, a pilgrimage; and no Musselman ever travelled barefooted to Mecca with more sincere devotion.

YOUR absence would cause an insufferable ennui in your friends, were it not for the art we have in making it turn to our amusement. Instead of wishing you were of our party, you are the goddess in whose honour we performed innumerable Heathenish rites. Libations of wine are poured out, but not a guest presumes to taste it, until they implore the name of Harriot; we hail' the new divinity in songs, and strew around the flowers of poetry. You need not, however, take to yourself any extraordinary addition of vanity on the occasion as your absence will not cause any repining:

"Harriot our goddess and our grief no more."

BUT to give you my opinion on this important matter, I must descend to plain truth, and acknowledge I had rather adore yon 2l preseitt mortal, than an absent divinity; and therefore wish for your return with more religious ardour than a devout disciple of the false prophet for the company of the Hourî.

THANKS

THANKS to the power of imagination for our fanciful interview. Methought I somewhere unexpectedly met you â but I was soon undeceived of my imaginary happiness, and I awoke, repeating these verses: â

THOUGH sleep her sable pinions spread,

My thoughts still run on you; And visions hovering o'er my head,
Present you to my view.

By FANCY'S magick pencil drest,

I saw my Delia move; I clasp'd her to my anxious breast,
With TEARS of joy and love.

Methought she said â " Why thus forlorn? â

Be all thy care resign'd: " â I 'woke and found my Delia gone.

But still the TEAR behind.

LETTER

LETTER XXI.

Harriot to Myra.

Rhodesland.

WE arrived here in safety, but our journey is not without incident â an incident which exhibits a melancholy picture of the wickedness and depravity of the human heart.

WHEN we came to the house of Mrs. Martin, who I suppose you know is cousin to Mrs. Francis, we were not a little astonished at the evident traces of distress in her countenance; all her actions were accompanied with an air of solemnity, and her former gaiety of heart was exchanged for sad, serious thoughtfulness: thoughtfulness: She, however, put on a face of vivacity upon our being introduced, but her cheerfulness was foreign to the feelings of her heart.

MR. Martm was equally agitated: he endeavoured to dispossess himself of an uncommon weight of remorse, but in vain â all his dissimulation could not conceal his emotion, nor his art abate the continual upbraidings of conscious guilt.

MRS. Francis was anxious to enquire the cause of this extraordinary change, but wisely forebore adding to the distress of her friend, by desiring her to explain it, in a manner too precipitate. She was in a short time made acquainted with the particulars of the story which is not more melancholy than uncommon.

SOMETIME after the marriage of Martin, the beautiful Ophelia, sister to Mrs. Martin, returned from a European visit to her friends in Rhodeisland. Upon her arrival, she re-iceved a polite offer from her brother-in-law of an elegant apartment of his house in town, which was cheerfully accepted â Fatal acceptation! He, had conceived a passion for Ophelia and was plotting to gratify it. By a series of the most artful attention, suggested by a diabolical appetite, he insinuated himself into her affection â he prevailed upon the heart of the unsuspecting Ophelia, and triumphed over her innocence and virtue.

THIS incestuous connection has secretly subsisted until the present time â it was interrupted by a sympton which rendered it necessary for Ophelia to retire mto the country, where she was delivered of a child, at once the son and nephew of Martin.

THIS

THIS event was a severe mortification to the proud spirit of Shepherd, the father of Ophelia. His resentment to his daughter was implacable, and his revenge of the injury from Martin not to be satiated. The blaze of family dispute raged with unquenchable fury â and poor Ophelia received other punishment from the hand of a vindictive father than base recrimination.

THE affection of Martin how became changed to the vilest hatred.

THUS doomed to suffer the blackest ingratitude from her seducer on the one hand, and to experience the severity of paternal vengeance on the other â and before her the gloomy prospect of a blasted reputation â what must be the situation of the hapless Ophelia! Hope, the last resort of the wretched, was forever shut out. There was no one whom she durst implore by the tender name of father, and he, who had seduced her from her duty and her virtue, was the first to brand her with the disgraceful epithets of un-dutiful and unchaste.

PERHAPS it was only at this time, that she became fully sensible of her danger; the flattery and dissimulation of Martin might have banished the idea of detection, and glossed over that of criminality; but now she awoke from her dream of insensibility, she was like one who had been deluded by an ignis fatuus to the brink of a precipice, and there abandoned to his reflection to contemplate the horrors of the sea beneath him, into which he was about to plunge.

WHETHER from the promises of J(2rm, or the flattery of her own fancy, is unknown, but it is said she expected to become his wife, and made use of many expedients to obtain a divorcement of Martin from her sister: But this is the breath of rumour: Allowing it to be truth, it appears to be the last attempt of despair; for such unnatural exertions, with the compunction attending them, represent a gloomy picture of the struggle between sisterly affection and declining honour. They however proved inavailable, and her efforts to that end, may with propriety be deemed a wretched subterfuge.

IN the mean while the rage of Shepherd was augmenting. Time, instead of allaying, kindled the flame of revenge in the breast of the old man. A sense of the wounded

honour of his family, became every day more exquisite; he resolved to call a meeting of the parties, in which the whole mystery should be developed â that Ophelia should confront her seducer, seducer, and a thorough enquiry and expca-tion be brought about.

OPHELIA exercised all her powers to prevent it; she intreated her father to consent to her desire, but her tears and intreaties were vain. To this earnest desire of his daughter. Shepherd opposed the honour of his family. She replied that a procedure would publish its disgrace and be subversive of his intention: That she hoped to live retired from the world, and it was in his power to accept her happy repentance: In extenuating, she wished not to vindicate her errors, but declared herself to be. penetrated with a melancholy sense of her misconduct, and hoped her penitence might expiate her guilt: ' She now beheld the sin in the most glaring colours, the dangers to which she had been exposed, and acknowledged the effects of her temerity had impressed her mind with sincere contrition: " All persons,"

go 2; t)C otijr of mpatti, persons," continued she, " are not blest with the hke happiness of resisting temptation:" she intreated her father, therefore, to beheve her misfortunes proceeded from credulity and not from an abandoned principle â that they arose more from situation than a depraved heart: In asking to be restored to the favour and protection of a parent, she protested she was not influenced by any other motive, than a wish to demonstrate the sincerity of her repentance, and to establish the peace and harmony of the family.

OPHËLIA now became melancholy, and her intentions visibly bent on the mmtner of her death. As the time drew nigh, her sensibility decame more and more exquisite: What was before distress, she now averred to be horror: Her conduct bordered on insanity.

THE day was appointed to bring to a settlement this unhappy business â the time of hearing arrivedâ the parties metâ the presence of Ophelia was necessaryâ she was missingâ the unfortunate Ophelia died by her own hand.

MRS. Shepherdq. va. Qx dl i apartment of her daughterâ she beheld her pale and trembling â she saw the vial, and the cup with the remains of the poisonâ she embraced her lost â " My Ophelia! my daughter! return â return to life."

AT this crisis entered the father â he was mute â he beheld his daughter struggling with the pangs of dissolution â he was dumb with grief and astonishment.

THE dying Ophelia was conscious of the distress of her parents, and of her own situation â she clasped her mother's hand, and raising raising her eye to heaven, was only heard to articulate "LET MY CRIME BE FORGOTTEN WITH MY NAME. â O FATAL! FATAL POISON!"

ADIEU! my dear Myra â this unhappy affair has worked me to a fit of melancholy. I can write no more. I will give you a few particulars in my next. It is impossible to behold the effect of this horrid catastrophe and not be impressed with feelings of sympha-thetick sorrow:

LETTER

LETTER XXII.

Harriot to Myra.

Rkodeislajzd.

HOW frail is the heart! How dirn is human foresight! We behold the gilded "bait of temptation, and know not until taught by experience, that the admission of one error is but the introduction of calamity. One mistake imperceptibly leads to another â but the consequences of the whole bursting suddenly on the devoted head of an unfortunate wanderer, becomes intolerable.

HOW acute must be that torture, which seeks an asylum in suicide! O SEDUCTION! how many and how miserable are the victims of thy unrelenting vengeance. Some crimes, indeed, cease to afflict when they cease to exist, but SEDUCTION opens the door to a dismal train of innumerable miseries.

YOU can better imagine the situation of the friends of the unfortunate Ophelia than I can describe it.

THE writings she left were expressive of contrition for her past transaction, and an awful sense of the deed she was about to execute. Her miserable life was insupportable, there was no oblation but in death â she welcomed death, therefore, as the pleasing harbinger of relief to the unfortunate. She remembered her once-loved seducer with pity, and bequeathed him her forgiveness. â To say she felt no agitation was not just, but that she experienced a calmness unknown to a criminal a criminal was certain. She hoped the fash-ness of her conduct would not be construed to her disadvantage â for she died in charity with the world. She felt like a poor wanderer about to return to a tender parent, and flattered herself with the hopes of a welcome, though unbidden return. She owned the way was dark and intricate, but lamented she had no friend to enlighten her understanding, or unravel the mysteries of futurity. She knew there was a God who will reward and punish: She acknowledged she had offended Him, and confessed her repentance. She expatiated on the miserable life she had suffered: not that she feared detection, that was impossible: but that she had been doing an injury to a sister who was all kindness to her: she prayed her sister's forgiveness â even as she herself forgave her seducer; and that her crime might not be called ingratitude, because she was always sensible of her obligation to that that sister. She requested her parents to pardon her, and acknowledged she felt the pangs of a bleeding heart at the shock which must be given to the most feeling of mothers. She intreated her sisters to think of her with pity, and died with assurance that her friends would so far revere her memory as to take up one thing or another, and say this belonged to poor Ophelia.

O MY friend! what scenes of anguish are here unfolded to the survivors. The unhappy Shepherd charged Martin with the seduction and murder of his daughter. What the termination of this most horrible affair will be, is not easy to foresee.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XXIII. Harriot to Myra.

Rhodeisland.

WHATEVER may be the other causes (if there were any besides her seduction) which drove the unhappy Ophelia temerarily to end her existence, it certainly becomes us, my dear friend, to attend to them â and to draw such morals and lessons of instruction from each side of the question, as will be a mirror by which we may regulate our conduct and amend our lives. A prudent pilot will shun those rocks upon which others have been dashed to pieces, and take example from the conduct of others

less fortunate than himself: himself: It is the duty of the moralist, then to deduce his observations from preceding facts in such a manner as may directly improve the mind and promote the economy of human life.

THIS may be an apology for sending you the arguments of- Martin in answer to Shepherd, who in his rage and grief had called him the murderer of his child.

HE reminded Shepherd of his obstinacy in persisting in an explanatory meeting, and refusing to grant Ophelias request in suffering the affair to subside â "Your proud spirit," said he, "would not barken to the gentle remonstrances of your daughterâ your heart was closed to every conciliatory proposition. Though she expressed a propensity to fly from the eye of the world, she had hitherto appeared lulled in a kind of happy insensibility; insensibility; yet the approaching time of explanation was terrible, it renewed the story and torture of all her misfortunes, and the idea filled her with grief and dismay. Had you been as willing to receive her, as she to return to you, happy would it have been for both; but your pride was the cause of additional calamitiesâ when the time arrived â But why shall we harrow upon souls with the reiteration of her sorrowful exit?â

"FROM these circumstances," said Martin â "you cannot accuse me as the immediate cause of Ophelias death; the facts are as I have stated them â and thus was a straying, but penitent child, driven to despair and suicide by a severe use of parental power, and a vain attempt to resent an injury, for which it was impossible the accused party could make compensation."

NOTWITHSTANDING loo tlje potder of g) mpatl).

NOTWITHSTANDING the plausibility of Martins plea, I have little hesitation in my mind to charge him with the remote cause of the miserable end of Ophelia.

HOW far parental authority may be extended, is a question which I shall not determine; I must, however, think it depends upon the combination Of circumstances. The duty of a child to her parents will be in proportion to the attention paid to her education. If, instead of the usual pains bestowed by many partial parents, upon the vain parade of forming the manners of a child, and burthening the mind with the necessity of douceurs and graces, would it not often be happier for both, to take a small share of thought to kindle one spark of grace in the heart?

HAPPY the parents, who have bestowed upon their children such an education, as will enable â t potoer of mpatli. loi enable them, by a principle of mediocrity, to govern them without extorting obedience, and to reclaim them without exercising severity.

Farewell!

LETTER

LETTER XXIV. Harriot to Myra.

Rhodeisland.

MRS. Francis is not altogether pleased with her journey to this part of the countryâ She does not delight to brood over sorrow â She flies from the house of mourning, to scenes of dissipation â and, like the rest of the world, bears the misfortunes of her friends with a most christian fortitude: The melancholy aspect of affairs here, will therefore shorten our visit â so you may expect us at Boston in a few days.

MY faithful lover (with whom I will certainly tainly make you acquainted in a short time) continues to write to me in very passionate and sentimental strains. His last letter proves him to be a tolerable maker of rhymes and I inclose it for your entertainm, ent.

I am, my dear,
Your most affectionate Friend.

LETTER

LETTER XXV.

Myra to Harriot.

(written before she had received the preceding.)

Boston.

YOUR sorrowful little history has infected me with grief. Surely there is no human vice of so black a dieâ so fatal in its consequences â or which causes a more general calamity, than that of seducing a female from the path of honour. This idea has been improved by my brother, on the hint of your favourâ as an acknowledgement for which I inclose you his production.

â (the , (the inclosed.) t t Court of Â tceÂ

An apologue.

VIQUE " on a solemn night of state, In all her pomp of terroure sate," Her voice in deep, tremendous tone, Thus issu'd from her ebon throne: ' This night at our infernal court, ' Let all our ministers resort; ' Who most annoys the human race, ' At our right hand shall take his place, ' Rais'd on a throne â advanc'd in fame â YE CRIMES now vindicate your claim." Eager for praise, the hideous host. All spake, aspiring to the post.

Pride said, to gain his private ends. He sacrific'd his dearest friends; Insulted all with manners rude. And introduc'd ingratitude. 'Twas he infus'd domestick hate. And party spirit in the state; Hop'd they'd observe his mystick plan,

Destroy'd

Destroy'd all confidence in man; And justifi'd his high pretentions, By causing envy and dissentions.

INTEMPERANCE loud, demands the place, He'd long deceiv'd the human race; None could such right as he maintain. Disease and death were in his train.

THEFT next appears to claim the station, E'er constant in his dark vocation; He thought the place might well repay, The CRIME who labour'd night and day.

FRAUD own'd (tho' loth to speak his praise) He gain'd his point by secret ways; His voice in cities had been heard. And oft in senates been preferr'd! Yet much derision had he borne, Treated by honest fools with scorn; His influence on the western shore Was not so great as heretofore: He own'd each side alike assail'd, Complain'd how sadly he was rail'd, Curst by the name in ev'ry street.

Of Paper, Tendry, Rogue and Cheat:

Yet if some honour should requite

His labourâ things might still go right.

MURDER before the footstool stood, With tatter'd robe distain'd in blood. ' And who," he cry'd, with daring face, ' Denies my title to the place? ' My watchful eyes mankind survey, ' And single out the midnight prey; ' No cowardlike I meet the foe, '

With footsteps insecure and slow, ' Or cause his death by languid strife â ' Boldly this dagger ends his life. ' Give back, ye CRIMES, your claims resign, ' For I demand the post as mine."

AV'RICE declar'd his love of gold; His nation, or himself he sold; He taught the sin of PRIDE betimes; Was foster-father of all crimes: He pawn'd his life; he sak'd his soul. And found employment for the whole: Acknowledg'd that he gain'd his wealth, By FRAUD, by MURDER; and by STEALTH:

On one so useful to her cause, VICE well might lavish due applause.

The hkgger'd host bow'd low the head. The MONSTER rose, and thus she said: ' Ye MINISTERS of VICE, draw near, ' For fame no longer persevere; ' No more your various parts disclose, ' Men SEE, AND HATE YOU ALL AS FOES.

' One yet remains among your crew, ' Then rise, SEDUCTION! claim your due.

' Your baleful presence quickly parts ' The tie that holds the happiest hearts; ' You ROB â what WEALTH can ne'er repay; ' Like JUDAS with a kiss betray: ' Hence come the starving, trembling train, ' Who prostitute themselves for gain, ' Whose languid visages impart ' A smile, while anguish gnaws the heart; ' Whose steps decoy unwary youth, ' From honour, honesty, and truth, ' Which follow'd 'till to late to mend, ' In ruin, and the gallows end â ' Be thine the post. Besides, who knows ' When all thy consequences close?

' With thee, SEDUCTION! are ally'd ' HORROUR, DESPAIR and SUICIDE, ' You ' You wound â â but the devoted heart ' Feels not alone â the poignant smart: ' You wound â th' electrick pain extends ' To fathers, mothers, sisters, friends. ' MURDER may yet delight in blood, And deluge round the crimson flood: ' But sure his merits rank above, ' Who murders in the mask of love."

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LETTER XXVI.

Myra to Mrs. Holmes.

Boston.

IN one of my former letters I acquainted you that I suspected my brother to be in love, and now Madam, I am enabled to tell you with whom â the amiable Harriot.

Harriot attended Mrs. Francis in her journey to Rhodeisland, and our young hero has, in her absence, been dreaming of his mistress; and, in a letter to her has written a description of his visionary interview. Harriot, with whom I maintain a constant correspondence, and who keeps no secret from me, inclosed inclosed the verses in her last, when lo! the handwriting of Master Harrington.

I WAS a little mortified that the young man had kept me in ignorance of his amour all this time, and this morning determined upon a little innocent revenge â " Tommy," said I, as he entered the room, " here is a piece of poetry, written by an acquaintance of mine â I want your judgment on it" â " Poetry or rhyme," answered he, advancing towards me, and casting his eyes upon it â He took the letter and began to read â " Why do you blush, young man?" said I, " Harriot is a fine girl." â

THIS produced an eclaircissement, and as the matter must remain secret, for a certain weighty reason, I am to be the confidante.

I MUST acknowledge to you, Mrs. Holmes, there is a certain ne scais quoi in my amiable able friend, that has always interested her in my favourâ I have an affection

for her which comes from the heart â an affection which I do not pretend to account forâ Her. de-pendance upon Mrs. Francis hurts me â I do not think this lady is the gentle, complaisant being, that she appears to be in company â To behold so fine a girl in so disagreeable a situation, might at first attract my commiseration and esteem, and a more intimate knowledge of her virtues might have ripened them into love. Certain it is, however, that whom I admire a friend, I could love as a SISTER. In the feelings of the heart there can be no dissimulation.

PLEASE to tell Mr. Worthy, he may continue to write, and that I will condescend to read his letters.

Farewel!

LETTER

LETTER XXVII. Worthy to Myra.

Bellevue.

I AM just returned from a melancholy excursion with Eliza. I will give you the history of it â We generally walk out together, but we this time went further than usual â The morning was calm and serene â all Nature was flourishing, and its universal harmony conspired to deceive us in the length of the way.

WHILE we were pursuing our walk, our ears were struck with a plaintive, musical voice, singing a melancholy tune. â " This,"

said said Mrs. Holmes, " must be Fidelia â the poor distracted girl was carried off by a ruffian a few days before her intended marriage, and her lover, in despair, threw himself into the river," â Eliza could say no more â for Fidelia resumed her melancholy strain in the following words: â

TALL rose the lily's slender frame.

It shed a glad perfume; But ah! the cruel spoiler came,

And nipt its opening bloom.

Curse on the cruel spoiler's hand That stole thy bloom and fledâ

Curse on his hand â for thy true love Is number'd with the dead.

Poor maiden! like the lily frail, 'Twas all in vain you strove; You heard the stranger's tender tale â

But where was thy true love?

Thou wast unkind and false to him, But he did constant prove;

He plung'd headlong in the stream â Farewel, farewell, my love!

'Twas where the river rolls along,

The youth all trembling stood, Opprest with grief â he cast himself

Amidst the cruel flood.

White o'er his head the billows foam,

And circling eddies move; Ah! there he finds a watery tomb â

Farewel, farewell, my love!

WE advanced towards the place from where the sound issued, and Fidelia, who heard our approach, immediately rose from the ground; " I was tired," said she, " and sat down here to rest myself."

SHE was dressed in a long white robe, tied about the waist with a pink ribband; her fine brown hair flowed loosely round her shoulders â In her hand she held a number of wild flowers and weeds, which she had been gathering. " These," she cried, "

are to make a nosegay for my love." "He hath no occasion for it," said Eliza. "Yes! where he hves," cried zffe2a, "there are plentyâ and flowers that never fade too â I will throw them into the river, and they will swim to him â they will go straight to him " â " And what will he do with them? " I asked; " O!" said the poor girl as she looked wistfully on them, and sorted them in her hand, " he loves everything that comes from me â he told me so" â " He will be happy to receive them," cried Eliza. " Where he is," said Fidelia, " is happinessâ and happy are the flowers that bloom there â and happy shall I be, when I go to him â alas! I am very ill now " â " He will love you again," said Eliza, " when you find him out "â " O he was very kind," cried she, tenderly, " he delighted to walk with me over all these fields â but now, I am obliged to walk alone." Fidelia drew her hand across her cheek, and we wept with her. â "I must go," she said, "I must go," and turned abruptly from us, and left us with great precipitation.

Farewel!

LETTER

LETTER XXVIII.

Worthy to Myra.

Bellevue.

MY melancholy meditations led me yesterday to the same place where I had seen the distracted Fidelia, and walking down the hill I again beheld her by the side of a beautiful springâ Before I could come up to the place, she was gone â she went hastily over the field â I followed her â after a few minutes walk, I overtook her, and we both went on together towards a small, neat farmhouse. An old man was sitting at the door â he gave a sigh as she passed him to go in â I asked him if she was his daughter â " Alas!" said he, " my poor child â she has been in this state of affliction for near a twelve month." I enquired what cause produced the loss of her senses â He looked down sorrowfully â the question awakened the gloomy sensations of past evils, the recollection of which was painful, and opened wounds afresh that were not yet healed. " She has lost her lover," cried the old manâ "the youth was the son of one of our neighbours â their infancy was marked by a peculiar attachment to each other. When the young people danced together, Fidelia was always the partner of Henry â as they grew up their mutual tenderness ripened into passionate affection. They were engaged to each other, and Henry saved all his little stock of money to begin the world by himself. All the town beheld them with pleasureâ they wished them success and happiness â and from their knowledge of both their characters, were led to hope they would one day become good members of society â but these hopes are blasted, and they now bestow the bitterest curses on the wretch who hath crushed their expectationsâ who hath deprived Fidelia of her senses, and caused the death of her lover.

"THE gay Williams comes among us, and participates in our domestick pastimes â he singles out Fidelia, and is assiduous in his attentions to her â her little heart is lifted up â but her prudence rises uperior to her vanity. Henry observes the operations of Williams and thinks he sees in him a powerful rival â the unhappy youth becomes melancholyâ he sickens with jealousyâ the pleasures of our country are forgotten by him â his thoughts are constantly employed on his Fidelia. â To complete the measure

of his promised happiness he wishes to call her his own â he declares the desire of his soul â

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Fidelia pledges her faith. He now sees the accomplishment of all his wishes in reversion â his heart leaps for joy â but â as the little paraphernalia is preparing, the ruffian hand of the Seducer dashes the cup of joy from their lipsâ Fidelia suddenly disappearsâ Williams â the ungrateful Williams â betrays her to a carriage he had prepared, and she is hurried off. Henry stands astonished â wild with grief and dismay, he appears senseless and confounded.

"WHEN the heart is elevated by strong expectationâ disappointment and misfortune come with redoubled force.â To receive pain, when we look for pleasure,. penetrates the very soul with accumulated anguish."

THE old man paused â He endeavoured to hide a tear that was stealing down his cheek cheek â and to check the violence of his passion.

I ASKED him how long his daughter was missing â "Not long," he answered â "the young men, enraged at the insult, arm themselves and pursue the robber â they overtake him â Williams is wounded in the scuffle, and is carried away bleeding, by his servant â My daughter is regained â we thank Heaven for her restoration. She enquires for her Henry â alas! Henry is no more! The object of his love had flown from him, and with her the light of his soul â Darkness and grief liad encompassed him â he had no resource, no consolation, no hope â she, whom his soul loved was stolen â was wrested from his embrace. Who was there to administer rehref?â Who was there to supply her loss?

â Not one.â the light of his reason now became clouded â he is seized by despair, and urged urged forward by the torments of disappointed love, he plunges into the riyer â to close his sorrows with his life.

"THE loss of Fidelias senses followed this tragical event.

"SHE hears the fate of her lover and becomes petrified â the idea of her sorrows â her own agitation and care for her person, are lost in the reflection of her lover's death. â A while she raved â but this is now somewhat restored, and, as you see, the poor mani-ack strays about the fields harmless and inoffensive."

THE old man proceeded to inform me of the death of his wife â the idea of one misfortune aroused in him that of another â or rather there was a gradual progression in them, and consequently a connexionâ He told told me she did not long survive the death of Henry. " O Charlotte I " he cried, " thdu wast kind and cheerful â very pleasant hast thou been unto me. I will not cease to regret thy loss, till I meet thee in a better world."

"OUR hearts," continued the old man, addressing me, "are loosened from their attachment to this world by repeated strokes of misfortune. Wisely is it ordered thus. Every calamity severs a string from the heart â until one scene of sorrow on the back of a, nother matures us for eternity â Thus are our affections estranged from this scene of misery. The cord that detains the bird is severed in two â and it flies away.

"FORMERLY as I sat in this placeâ in the mild shade of the eveningâ when I had returned from my labour and took Fidelia on my knee, how often have I rendered thanks to Heaven for the happiness I enjoyed, and implored His power to make my

child such another as Charlotte â This sweet remembrance yet swells and agitates my heart, and in the midst of the distress which surrounds me, I feel a consolation in tracing to you a feeble sketch of the happy times that are passed."

THE old man was sensibly affectedâ he delighted to dwell on what his child had been- â he thought of those times â and he sighed when he contrasted them with the present.

"IN her disordered state," continued he, "she knows me not as a, father â I spread my morsel before her, and she flies from it â she forgets the sound of my voice â she is no longer unto me as a daughter. She who hath so tften said, she would support me with her arm, and lead me about, when I should be old and decrepitâ to her I call, but she returns turns me no answer. Is not the cause of my woes, a melancholy instance of the baleful art of the SEDUCER? â She is deprived of her reason, and knows not the weight of her misery; and I am doubly deadened with her affliction, and the accumulated misfortune of immature decrepitude."

"SEDUCTION is a crime," I observed, " that nothing can be said to palliate or excuse."

"AND WOE to him," added the old man, " who shall endeavour to extenuate it-â â Tthey have taken away my staff' â continued he, raising a look of imploring mercy to Heaven, while a trembling tear rolled from his swollen eye, 'â They have taken away my staff in m, y old â it age.

FREELY did my heart share in the sorrows of the good old man â when I left him, I prayed

I prayed Heaven to compassionate his distress â and as I "bent my pensive step towards Bellevue, I had leisure to animadvert on the fatal tendency of SEDUCTION.

Adieu!

End of Vol. I.

The Power of Sympathy.

VOL. II.

THE POWER OF SYMPATHY or, the Triumph of Nature. Founded in Truth.

MRS. PEREZ MORTON (SARAH WENTWORTH APTHORP). WM Frontispiece.

BOSTON: PKINTED-BY-CUPPLESi PATTERSON ANi-ruBLISH-ED BY'TME-AT-THE-BACK BAY- BOOKSTORE 230 â BOYU STON'S STREET

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POWER OF SYMPATHY:

TRIUMPH OF NATURE.

FOUNDED IN TRUTH.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. n.

Fain would he frow Life's thorny Way with Flowers, And open to your View Elyfian Bowers; Catch the warm Pailions of the tender Touth, And win the Mind to Sentiment and Truth.

PRINTED at BOSTOM

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 MDCCLXXXIX.

The Power of Sympathy.

LETTER XXIX.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Bellevue.

I AM sometimes mortified to find the books which I recommend to your perusal, are not always applicable to the situation of an American lady. The general observations of some English books are the most useful things contained in them; the principal parts being chiefly, filled with local descriptions, which a young woman here is frequently at a loss to understand.

I SEND you a little work, entitled "A lady of Quality's Advice to her Children" which, though not altogether free from this exception, is highly worthy of your attention. A parent who is represented struggling with the distress of a lingering illness, bequeaths a system of education to her offspring. I do not recommend it to you as a Novel, but as a work that speaks the language of the heart and that inculcates the duty we owe to ourselves, to society and the Deity.

DIDACTICK essays are not always capable of engaging the attention of young ladies. We fly from the laboured precepts of the essayist, to the sprightly narrative of the novelist. Habituate your mind to remark the difference between truth and fiction. You will then always be enabled to judge of the propriety and justness of a thought; and never be misled to form wrong opinions, by the meretricious dress of a pleasing tale. You will then be capable of deducing the most profitable lessons of instruction, and the design of your reading will be fully accomplished.

HENCE you will be provided with a key to the characters of men: To unlock these curious cabinets is a very useful, as well as entertaining employment. Of those insidious gentlemen, who plan their advances towards us on the Chesterfieldian system, let me advise you to beware. A prudent commander would place a double watch, if he apprehended the enemy were more disposed to take the fort by secrecy and undermining, than by an open assault.

I CANNOT but smile sometimes, to observe the ridiculous figure of some of our young gentlemen who affect to square their conduct by his Lordship's principles of politenessâ they never tell a story unless it be very short â they talk of decorum and the etiquette â they detest everything vulgar or common â they are on the rack if an old man should let fall a proverb â and a thousand more trifling affectations, the ridicule of which arises, not so much from their putting on this foreign dress, as from their ignorance or vanity in pretending to imitate those rules which were designed for an English noblemanâ Unless, therefore, they have a prospect of being called by Congress to execute some foreign negotiation, they ought certainly to be minding their business.

THIS affectation of fine breeding is destructive to morals. Dissimulation and insincerity are connected with its tenets; and are mutually inculcated with the art of pleasing.

A PERSON

A PERSON of this character grounds his motives for pleasing on the most selfish principle. He is polite, not for the honour of obliging you, as he endeavours to make you believe, but that he himself might be obliged. Suspect him, therefore, of insincerity and treachery, who sacrifices truth to complaisance, and advises you to the pursuit of an object, which would tend to his advantage.

ALWAYS distinguish the man of sense from the cox-comb. Mr. Worihiy is possessed of a good understanding, and an exact judgement. If you are united with him, let it be the study of your life to preserve his love and esteem. His amiable character is adorned with modesty and a disposition to virtue and sobriety. I never anticipate your future happiness, but I contemplate this part of his character with pleasure. But remember the fidelity of a wife alone, will not always secure the esteem of a husband; when her personal attractions do not continue to delight his eye, she will flatter his judgement. I think you are enabled to perform this, because you are solicitous to supply your mind with those amiable qualities which are more durable than beauty. When you are no longer surrounded with a flattering circle of young men, and the world shall cease to call you beautiful, your company will be courted by men of sense, who know the value of your conversation.

I AM pleased with the conduct of some agreeable girls, and the return of civility and attention they often make to the conceited compliments of a certain class of beaux. These ladies wisely consider them as the butterflies of a day, and therefore generally scorn to break them on a wheel!

WHEN you are in company, when the vain and thoughtless endeavour to shew their ingenuity by ridiculing particular orders of men, your prudence will dictate to you not to countenance their abuse. The book I have just mentioned, intimates, that "there are a great many things done and said in company which a woman of virtue will neither see nor hear." To discountenance levity, is a sure way to guard against the encroachment of temptation; to participate in the mirth of a buffoon, is to render yourself equally ridiculous. We owe to ourselves a detestation of folly, and to the world, the appearance of it. I would have you avoid coquetry and affectation, and the observance of my maxims will never make you a prude. Pretend, therefore, should a vain youth throw out illiberal sarcasms against Mechanics, Lawyers, Ministers, Virtue, Religion, or any serious subject, not to comprehend the point of his wit.

HAVE

I HAVE seldom spoken to you on the importance of Religion, and the veneration due to the characters of the Clergy. I always supposed your good sense capable of suggesting their necessity and eligibility. The Ministers of no nation are more remarkable for learning and piety than those of this country. The fool may pretend to scorn, and the irreligious to condemn, but every person of sense and reflection must admire that sacred order, whose business is to inform the understanding, and regulate the passions of mankind. Surely, therefore, that class of men, will continue to merit our esteem and affection, while virtue remains upon earth.

I AM always pleased with the reasonable and amiable light in which the Clergy are placed by the author of the Guardian. "The light," says he, "in which these points should be exposed to the view of one who is prejudiced against the names, Religion, Church, Priest, or the like, is to consider the Clergy as so many Philosophers,

the Churches as Schools, and their Sermons as Lectures for the improvement and information of the audience. How would the heart of Tully or Socrates have rejoiced, had they lived in a nation where the law had made provision for philosophers to read lectures of philosophy; every seventh day, in several thousands of schools, erected at the publick charge, throughout the whole country, at which lectures, all ranks and sexes, without distinction, were obliged to be present, for their general improvement?"

YOU may, perhaps, think this letter too serious, but remember that virtue and religion are the foundation of education.

Adieu! LETTER

LETTER XXX.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Bellevue.

YOU will observe, my dear friend, that most of the letters I have written to you of late, on female education', are confined to the subject of study. I am sensible of the ridicule sometimes levelled at those who are called learned ladies. Either these ladies must be uncommonly pedantick, or those who ridicule them, uncommonly ignorant. Do not be apprehensive of acquiring that title, or sharing the ridicule, but remember that the knowledge which I wish you to acquire, is necessary to adorn your many virtues and amiable qualifications. This ridicule is evidently a trans-Atlantick idea, and must have been imbibed from the source of some English Novel or Magazine. The American ladies of this class, who come within our knowledge, we know to be justly celebrated as ornaments to society, and an honour to the sex. When it is considered how many of our countrywomen are capable of the task, it is a matter of regret that American literature boasts so few productions from the pens of the ladies.

SELF complacency is a most necessary acquirement for the value of a woman will always be commensurate to the opinion she entertains of herself. A celebrated European wit, in a letter to a lady, concentrates much good advice in the short rule of conduct: "Reverence Thyself."

I WAS this morning reading Swift's letter to a very young lady, on her marriage. Although this famous writer is not celebrated for delicacy or respect towards us, yet I wish some of his observations contained less truth. If you are in company, says this writer, when the conversation turns on the manners and customs of remote nations, or on books in verse or prose, or on the nature and limits of virtue and vice, it is a shame for a lady not to relish such discourses, not to improve by them, and endeavour by reading and information, to have her share in those entertainments, rather than turn aside, as is the usual custom, and consult with the woman who sits next her, about a new cargo of fans.

HE then descends to particulars, and insists on the necessity of orthography. Is it not a little hard, continues he, that not one gentleman's daughter in a thousand should be brought brought to read or understand her own natural tongue, or be judge of the easiest books that are written in it; as any one may find, who can have the patience to hear them mangle a Play or a Novel?

IF there be any of your acquaintance to whom this passage is applicable, I hope you will recommend the study of Mr. Webster's Grammatical Institute, as the best work in our language to facilitate the knowledge of Grammar. I cannot but think Mr.

Webster intended his valuable book for the benefit of his countrywomen: For while he delivers his rules in a pure, precise, and elegant style, he explains his meaning by examples which are calculated to inspire the female mind with a thirst for emulation, and a desire of virtue.

NO subject has been more exhausted than that of education. Many Utopian schemes have been delineated, and much speculation employed. When I peruse these labours, and am persuaded the intention of their authors is to promote our welfare, I feel myself prompted to a prudent and amiable demeanour; and I suppose every woman of reason and reflection feels the same inclination to virtue, and the same sensations of gratitude in reading the works of those writers, the characteristics of whom, are sentiment, morality and benevolence.

WHAT books do you read, my dear? We are now finishing Barlow's Vision of Columbus, and shall begin upon Dwigms Conquest of Canaan in a few days. It is very agreeable to read with one, who points out the beauties of the author as we proceed. Such a one is Worthy. â Sometimes Mr. Holmes makes one of our party, and his notes and references to the ancient poets are very entertaining.

Worthy

Worthy is delighted with the ease and freedom with which we live here. We have little concerts, we walk, we ride, we read, we have good company â this is Bellevue in all its glory.

ADIEU, my dear â I shall continue this subject no longer, though I flatter myself you would receive my hints with satisfaction," because you must be persuaded I love you, and so interest myself in your welfare â I need not add that I think your conduct worthy of you. You are such a good girl that I know not in what to direct you; for you leave me no room for advice â continue to anticipate the desires of my heart, and secure the high opinion you have there obtained.

Your friend forever!

LETTER

LETTER XXXI.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Bellevue.

IF the affair of your brother and Harriot be serious, and matrimony is really on the tapis, do not fail to make me previously acquainted with it. â I very much doubt the evidence of the verses â they weigh little in my mind â and he is easily excused for sending them to so fine a girl as Harriot.

YOUR observations on her dependence on Mrs. Francis do honour to your heart â virtue does not consist in affluence and independence â nor can it be reflected on us by the glory of our connexions â those who pride themselves on it, make but an indifferent figure; for in the estimation of all sensible people â true merit is personal.

HOWEVER, my dear friend, as one who wishes for your welfare and the happiness of your family, I advise you to discourage the proposed connexion â and if you cannot undertake this disagreeable task with a certain success do not fail to acquaint me of it speedily.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XXXII.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

WHAT ails my heart? I feel a void here â and yet I verge towards my happinessâ for a few days makes Harriot mine â Myra say I had better not marry her. What could prompt her to use such an expression? Better not marry her. She has repeated it several timesâ and with too much eagernessâ I give no heed to it â and yet, why should it affect me in this manner? Is it an artifice to fathom the depth of my love?

Such

Such schemes are my utter aversion â it disturbs meâ I hate such artificeâ You cannot imagine how it touches my heart.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Bellevue.

IT is the duty of friends to be interested in all the concerns of one another â to join in their joys and to avert the stroke of danger. It is the duty of a centinel to give the alarm at the approach of what he may think suchâ and if the result does not prove to be a real evil â he has but performed his duty, and the action is meritorious.

IF your exertions to countermine the connexion of your brother with Harriot should prove prove ineffectual (and do not fail to acquaint me with it either way) I have a tale to UNFOLD which may possibly forbid the banns.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIV.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I FIND my temper grown extremely irritable â my sensibility is wounded at the slightest neglect â I am very tenacious of everything, and of everybody.

A PARTY was made yesterday to go on the water; I was omitted, and the neglect hurt me. I inquired the cause, and what think you is the answer? "I am no company â I am asked a question and return nothing to the point â I am absent â I am strangely altered within a few days â I am thinking of a different a different subject when I ought to be employed in conversation â I am extravagant in my observations â I am no company."

THEY would persuade me I am little better than a mad man â I have no patience with their nonsensical replies â Such wiseacres do not deserve my pity.

Farewell!

LETTER

LETTER XXXV.

Myra to Mrs. Holmes.

Boston.

YOUR letter is filled with such ambiguous expressions that I am utterly at a loss to discover your meaning.

I HAVE, however, sounded him on the article of marriage, and the result is â he loves Harriot most passionatelyâ and on account of my father's aversion to early marriage, will marry her privately in a few days.

THE oftener I read your letter, the more I am perplexed and astonished: " You HAVE

HAVE A TALE TO UNFOLD "â For Heaven's sake then unfold it, before it be too late â and as you dread the consequence of keeping it secret, by disclosing it to me, you will prevent the mischief, you so much deprecate â I am all impatience.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XXXVI.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I HAVE just left Harriot â but how have I left her? In tears. I wish I had not gone. Mrs. Francis had intrusted Harriot with some trifling commissionâ It was not done â she had not had time to perform it. Harriot was reprimanded â Yes! by Heaven â this Mrs. Francis had the insolence to reprimand Harriot in my presenceâ I was mortifiedâ I walked to the window â my heart was on fire â my blood boiled in my veinsâ it is impossible to form an idea of the disorder of my nerves â Harriot's were equally equally agitated â Mrs. Francis saw our confusion and retired â she left me so completely out of temper that I was forced to follow her example. I kissed away the tear from the cheek of Harriot and withdrew to my (chamber.

HERE let me forget what has passed â my irritability will not permit me â my feelings are too easily set in motion to enjoy long quietness â my nerves are delicately strung; they are now out of tune, and it is a hard matter to harmonize them.

I FEEL that I have a soul â and every man of sensibility feels it within himself. I will relate a circumstance I met with in my late travels through Southcarolina â I was always susceptible of touches of nature.

I HAD often remarked a female slave pass by my window to a spring to fetch water. She had something in her air superior to those of her situation â a fire that the damps of slavery had not extinguished.

AS I was one day walking behind her, the wind blew her tattered handkerchief from her neck and exposed it to my sight. I asked her the cause of the scar on her shoulder. She answered composedly, and with an earnestness that proved she was not ashamed to declare it â " It is the mark of the whip," said she, and went on with the history of it, without my desiring her to proceedâ " My-boy, of about ten years old, was unlucky enough to break a glass tumblerâ this crime was immediately looked into â I trembled for the fate of my child, and was thought to be guilty. I did not deny the charge, and was tied up. My former good character availed nothing. Under every affliction, we may receive ceive consolation; and during the smart of the whip, I rejoiced â because I shielded with my body the lash from my child; and I rendered thanks to the Best of Beings that I was allowed to suffer for him."

"HEROICALLY spoken! " said I, " may He whom you call the Best of Beings continue you in the same sentiments â may thy soul be ever disposed to sympathize with thy children, and with thy brethren and sisters in calamity â then shalt thou feel

every circumstance of thy life afford the satisfaction; and repining and melancholy shall fly from thy bosom â all thy labours will become easyâ all thy burdens light, and the yoke of slavery will never gall thy neck."

I WAS sensibly relieved as I pronounced these words, and I felt my heart glow with feelings of exquisite delight, as I anticipated the happy time when the sighs of the slave shall no longer expire in the air of freedom. What delightful sensations are those in which the heart is interested! In which it stoops to enter into the little concerns of the most remote ramification of Nature! Let the vain, the giddy, and the proud pass on without deigning to notice them â let them cheat themselves of happiness â these are circumstances which are important only to a sentimental traveller.

HAIL sensibility 1 Sweetener of the joys of life! Heaven has implanted thee in the breasts of his children â to soothe the sorrows of the afflicted â to mitigate the wounds of the stranger who falleth in our way. Thou regardest with an eye of pity, those whom wealth and ambition treat in terms of reproach. Away, ye seekers of power â ye boasters of wealthâ ye are the Levite and the Pharisee, who restrain the hand of charity from the indigent, and turn with indignation from the way-worn son of misery: â But Sensibility is the good Samaritan, who taketh him by the hand, and. consoleth him, and poureth wine and oil into his wounds. Thou art a pleasant companion â a grateful friend â and a neighbour to those who are destitute of shelter.â

FROM thee! Author of Nature! from thee, thou inexhaustible spring of love supreme, floweth this tide of affection and sympathy â thou whose tender care extendeth to the least of thy creatures â and whose eye is not inattentive even though a sparrow fall to i the ground.

LETTER

LETTER XXXVII.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Belleview, 12 delock at night.

I CANNOT rest â this affair lies so heavy on my mind, that sleep flies from my eye-lids. Your brother must discontinue his addresses to Harriot â with what should I not have to upbraid myself, if, through my remissness â your brother marries his sister! GREAT God! of what materials hast thou compounded the hearts of thy creatures! admire, O, my friend! the operation of NATUREâ and the power of SYMPATHY!

Harriot

Harriotls YOUR SISTER! I dispatch the bearer at this late hour to confide in your bosom the important secret!

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XXXVIII.

Myra to Mrs. Holmes.

Boston. ACCEPT my warmest acknowledgment, my good friend, for your kindness. â Your letter sufficiently explains your former anxiety â it has removed all ambiguities.

YOUR servant entered hastily with the letter â and gave it me with evident tokens of its containing a matter of importance.â My father was presentâ I broke it open, not

without agitationâ I read itâ but the shock was too severe â it fell from my hands, and I sunk into the chair.

MY fainting was not of any duration. I opened my eyes and found my father supporting me â but the idea of Harriot was still engraven deeply in my heart. â I inquired for my sister â the tear rolled down his cheekâ it was a sufficient answer to my inquiry.â He said nothingâ there was no necessity of his saying a word.

COULD I ask him to explain your letter? No â my heart anticipated his feelings â the impropriety struck me at once. " You have a tale to unfold." Do not delay to unfold it.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XXXIX.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Bellevue.

I READILY undertake to give you a sketch of the history of Harriot. Her mother's name was Maria Fawcett; her person I yet recollect, and forgive me if I drop a tear of pity at the recital of her misfortunes.

MY mother and Mrs. Holmes were remarkable friends, and the intimacy, you know, was maintained between the two families. I was on a visit with my mother when the destiny of Maria led her to Bellevue. I was frequently there during her illness â and was with her in her last moments.

IT was the custom of Mrs. Holmes to walk in the garden towards the close of the day. She was once indulging her usual walk, when she was alarmed by the complaints of a woman which came from the road. Pity and humanity were ever peculiar characteristics of my amiable parent â She hastened to the place whence the sound issued, and beheld a young woman, bathed in tears sitting on the ground. She inquired the cause of her distress, with that eager solicitude to relieve, which a sight so uncommon would naturally occasion. It was sometime before the distressed woman could return an intelligible answer, and then she with difficulty proceeded: " Your goodness. Madam, is unmerited â you behold a stranger, without home â without friends â and whose misery bears her down to an untimely grave â Life is a blessing â but my life is become burthen-some, and were the Almighty this moment to command me to the world of spirits, methinks I could gladly obey the summons, and rejoice in the stroke which bade me depart from sorrow and the world." Moderate your grief, my dear woman, repine not at the will of Providence, nor suffer yourself to despair, however severe your misfortunes.

THE unfortunate woman was at length prevailed on to accompany Mrs. Holmes into the house, she partook of some refreshment and retired to sleep. In a few days she appeared to be better; but it was a temporary recovery; she then told her story, with frequent interruptions, in substance as follows: â

J tstop

J istor of sparta.

"I DATE the rise of my misfortunes, "said Maria, " at the beginning of my acquaintance with the Honourable Mr. Harrington. â But for his solicitations I might still have lived in peace â a sister would not have had occasion to blush at the sound of my

name â nor had a mother's pillow been steeped in tears, too fondly prone to remember a graceless but repenting childâ We lived happily together in the days of my father, but when it pleased Providence to remove him, we no longer asserted our pretensions to that rank of life which our straitened finances were unable to continue. â A young woman in no eligible circumstances, has much to apprehend from the solicitations of a man of affluence. I am now better persuaded of this truth, than I ever was before â for this was my unhappy situation â I always entertained a predilection for Mr. Harrington â he urged his passion with protestations of sincerity and affectionâ he found my heart too slightly guardedâ he stroveâ he triumphed.

MUST I proceed!

"A SMILING female was the offspring of our illicit connexion â Ah! my little Harriot! " continued Maria, as she wiped away a tear from her eye, " mayest thou enjoy that happiness which is denied to thy mother."

"OUR amour was not fated to last long â I discovered his gay temper to be materially altered â he was oftentimes thoughtful and melancholy, and his visits became suddenly shorter, and less frequent.

"I AFTERWARDS

"I AFTERWARDS thought this change of conduct owing to jealousy â for he once asked me if a gentleman had called upon me â I persisted â I persisted in avowing my abhorrence of his ungenerous suspicion â He left me abruptly, and I saw nothing of him after.

"A STROKE so unexpected fell heavy on my heart â it awakened me to the state of misery into which my imprudence had hurried me. â What recompense could I expect from my Seducer? â He had been married two yearsâ From the inflexibility of his temper I had little to hope, and I formed a determination of leaving town, for I had now indubitable testimony of his affection being estranged from me â half frantick, I immediately set out â but whither I knew not â I walked with precipitation until Providence directed me to your hospitable door: To your your goodness, Madam, I am indebted for prolonging my existence a w days: For amidst the kindness and civilities of those around me, I feel myself rapidly verging towards the grave. I prepare myself for my approaching fateâ and daily wait the stroke of death with trembling expectation."

SHE wrote to Mr. Harrington about a week before her deceaseâ I transcribe the Letter: â

"The Hon. Mr. Harrington.

"To the man for whom my bleeding heart yet retains its wonted affection, though the author of my guilt and misery, do I address my feeble complaintâ O! Harrington I am verging to a long eternity â and it is with difficulty I support myself while my trembling hand traces the dictates of my heart heart. Indisposed as I am â and unable as I feel to prosecute this talk â I however collect all my powers to bid you a longâ a final fare-wel.

"OH! Harrington, I am about to depart â for why should I tarry here? In bitter tears of sorrow do I weep away the night, and the returning day but augments the anguish of my heart, by recalling to view the sad sight of my misfortunes. And have I not cause for this severe anguish, at once sorrow and disgrace of my family? â Alas! my poor

mother! â Death shall expiate the crime of thy daughter, nor longer raise the blush of indignation on thy glowing cheek. â Ought I not, therefore, to welcome the hand of death?

"But what will become of my poor helpless infant, when its mother lies forgotten in the grave grave? Wilt thou direct its feet in the path of virtue and rectitude? Wilt thou shelter it from the rude blasts of penury and want?â Open your heart to the solicitude of a mother â of a mother agonizing for the future welfare of her child. Let me intreat you to perform this requestâ by the love which you professed for thy Maria â by her life which you have sacrificed.

"AND wilt thou not drop a tear of pity in the grave of thy Maria? â I know thy soul is the soul of sensibility; but my departure shall not grieve thee â no, my Harrington, it shall not wrest a sigh from thy bosom â rather let me live, and defy the malice and misery of the world â But can tenderness â can love atone for the sacrifices I have made." - Will it blot out my errors from the book of memory? Will love be an excuse for my crime, or hide me from the eye of the malignant parent? â No, my Harrington, it will not. The passion is unwarrantable. Be it thine, gentle Amelia â be it thine to check the obtruding sigh, and wipe away the tear from his faceâ for thou art his wife, and thy soul is the seat of compassion â But â for me â

"Farewel â farewell forever! MARIA."

SHE survived but a short time â and frequently expressed a concern for the child â but Mrs. Holmes quieted her fears by promising to protect it. She accordingly made inquiry after it â and it is the same Harriot who was educated by her order, and whom she afterwards placed in the family of Mrs. Francis.

The assurances of my mother were like balm to the broken hearted Maria â "I shall now," said she "die in peace."

THE following is a copy of a letter written by the Rev. Mr. Holmes to the Hon. Mr., Harrington: â

Bellevue.

"SIR,

"WE have, a scene of distress at our house peculiarly pathetic and affecting, and of which you, perhaps, are the sole author â You have had a criminal connexion with Miss Fawcett â you have turned her upon the world inhumanly â but chance â rather let me say Providence, hath directed her footsteps to my dwelling, where she is kindly entertained, and will be so, as long as she remains in this wilderness world, which is to be, I fear, but a short timeâ And shall she not, though she hath been decoyed from the road that leadeth to peace, long life, and happiness â shall she not, if she return with tears of repentance and contrition, be entitled to our love and charity? Yes â this is my doctrine â If I behold any child of human nature distressed and forlorn, and in real want of the necessities of life, must I restrain or withhold the hand of charityâ must I cease to recall the departing spirit of them that are ready to perish, until I make diligent inquiry into their circumstances and character? Surely, my friend, it is a duty incumbent on us by the ties of humanity and fellow-feeling, and by the duty imposed on us by our holy religion, equally to extend the hand of relief to the necessitous â however they may be circumstanced in the great family of mankind.

"THE crime of Maria is not the blackest in the annals of human turpitude; but however ever guilty she might have been, the tears of penitence do certainly make atonement therefor.

"THUS much have I thought proper to say in vindication of my conduct â sheltering under my roof a poor wanderer â who hath strayed, but not wantonly, and who hath now happily returned.

"ONE would imagine, there was little necessity of making such a vindication to you; but my sentiments always flow from the abundance of my heart, and I am willing the whole world should judge of those which influence my conduct.â Now, though some men, whose charity is contracted, and who may be denominated prudes in virtue, might deem wrongfully of my attention to the calamity of this frail woman yet let me appeal to the hearts and understandings of all men, and these in particular, if I have erred, whether it be not an error on the side of humanity. Would to God such amiable errors were more frequent! â In as much, my friend, as there is joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, I may say with assurance that I have felt an emanation of this heavenly joy animate my heart, in beholding this woman delighting to steer her course heavenward.

"FROM the unhappy condition of Maria, I have been led to reflect on the mischievous tendency of SEDUCTION. Methinks I view the distressing picture in all its horrid colours: â

"BEHOLD the youthful virgin arrayed in all the delightful charms of vivacity, modesty and sprightliness. â Behold even while she is rising in beauty and dignity, like a lily of the valley.

valley, in the full blossom of her graces, she is cut off suddenly by the rude hand of the Seducer. Unacquainted with his baseness and treachery, and. too ready to repose confidence in him â she is deluded by the promises and flattery of the man who professes the greatest love and tenderness for her welfare:â

"BUT did she understand the secret villainy of his intentionsâ would she appear thus elate and joyous? Would she assent to her ruin? Would she subscribe her name to the catalogue of infamy? Would she kiss the hand of the atrocious dastard, already raised to give the final wound to her reputation and peace?

"O! WHY is there not an adequate pun-ismewt for this crime, when that of a common mon traitor is marked with its deserved iniquity and abhorrence!

"IS it necessary to depicture the state of this deluded young, creature after her fall from virtue? Stung with remorse, and fran-tick with despair, does she not fly from the face of day, and secrete her conscious head in the bosom of eternal forgetfulness? Melancholy and guilt transfix her heart, and she sighs out her miserable existence â the prey of poverty, ignominy and reproach! Lost to the world, to her friends, and to herself, she blesses the approach of death in whatever shape he may appear, and terminates a life, no longer a blessing to its possessor, or a joy to those around her.

â BEHOLD her stretched upon the mournful bier!â Behold her silently descend to the grave! Soon the wild weeds spring afresh round round the i k hillock, as if to shelter the remains of betrayed innocence â and the friends of her youth shun even the spot which conceals her relicks.

"SUCH is the consequence of SEDUCTION, but it is not the only consequence. Peace and happiness fly from the nuptial couch which is unattended by love and fidelity. The mind no longer enjoys its quiet, while it ceases to cherish sentiments of truth and gratitude. The sacred ties of connubial duty are not to be violated with impunity; for though a violation of those ties may be overlooked by the eye of justice, the heart shall supply a monitor, who will not fail to correct those who are hardy enough to burst them asunder. I am c.

"W. Holmes."

TO this Letter, Mr. Harrington returned the following answer.

Hmi. Mr. Harrington to the Rev. Mr. Holmes.

"PERMIT me, my ever honoured friend, to return you thanks for your late favours â need I add â an acknowledgement for your liberality? Noâ your heart supplies a source of pleasure which is constantly nourished by your goodness and universal charity. â

"THE picture you have exhibited of a ruined female is undoubtedly just, but that the rude spoiler has his share of remorse is equally so â The conclusion of your letter is a real picture of the situation of my heart.

"PERHAPS you were always ignorant of the real motives that influenced me, and gave a particular a particular bias to my conduct. â At an early period of my life, I adopted a maxim, that the most necessary learning was a knowledge of the worlds the pursuit of which, quad- rating with a volatility of disposition, presented a variety of scenes to my heated imagination. The eclat of my companions gratifying my vanity and increasing the gale of passion, I became insensibly hurried down the stream of dissipation. Here I saw mankind in every point of view â from the acme of the most consummate refinement, to the most abject stage of degradation. I soon became a ready proficient in the great school of the world â but an alteration of conduct was soon after necessary â I was compelled to it, not so much from the world's abhorrence of a dissolute course of life, as the dictates of my own heart.â It was, indeed, my policy to flatter the world, and exhibit a fair outside â for I was in love with Amelia â My licentious amour with Maria was secret â she was affectionate and tender â her manners were pleasing, but still I was unhappy.â

"MY CAREER of dissipation, however alluring it struck my vitiated fancy, left little satisfaction on the mind â Reflection had its turn â and the happiness I had promised myself in connexion with the amiable Amelia I fully enjoyed in our marriage. A course of uninterrupted tranquillity ensued, but it was of short duration. The volatility of my temper, and the solicitude of my old associates, induced me at subsequent periods to fall into my old vagaries. The taverns frequently found me engaged in meannesses derogatory to the character of a gentleman. These things I perceived affected the soul of Amelia â she was all meekness, gentleness and compassion, and she never once upbraided me with my illiberal conduct;

But let concealment, like a worm in bud, Feed on her. damask cheek.

"BLESSED be that Power who has implanted within us that consciousness of reproach, which springs from gentleness and love! â Hail sensibility! Ye eloquent ears of beauty! that add dignity to human nature by correcting its foibles â it was these that corrected my faults when recrimination would have failed of success â it was these

that opened every avenue of contrition in my heart, when words would have damned up every sluice of repentance.

"IT was now I appeared fully sensible that my conduct had hitherto been a course of disorder, and that systems of reformation, however well planned, had been overturned by the breath of adulation, before they had been thoroughly carried into executionâ that I had been drifting upon a sea of inconsistency.

sistency, without exercising my judgement; like a ship without a rudder, buffeted on the bosom of the ocean, the sport of winds and waves.

"THE criminahty of my connexion with Maria appeared with the most aggravated circumstances; it sturig me with remorse â and I instantly determined, however severe the conflict, to tear her from my bosom â to see her no more. â But how was I to inform her of it." â In what manner was I to bring about such a talk? â Maria must be sacrificed to the happiness of Amelia. This was all I had to perform â it was a short lesson, but it was a hard one for me to execute.

"WITH this determination, however, I entered the apartment of Maria â Duty to Amelia and gratitude to Maria interchangeably agitated me â the contention was dubious ous â but duty prevailed, and I adhered to my former resolution â yet how was I to tell her Azs would be the last visit? â Conscious she had ever acted in conformity to my wishes â how could I accuse her, without accusing myself? â I threw out a few inconsiderate and ungrateful hints of jealousy, and left the room abruptly. The feelings of Maria must have been injured â but however her sensibility was affected, mine was doubly so; I felt for herâ I felt for our infant, and these feelings were added to the afflictions which had already burst upon my devoted head. A few days consideration, however, convinced me of the impropriety and ingratitude of my behaviour to Maria â I hastened to tell her of itâ to place her in a situation that should screen her from penury and malice â and to make provision for the child â but she was not to be found. I was informed that she had suddenly disappeared, and that a countryman had, by her order, called and taken away the child but a few-hours before. This information burst upon my head like the voice of sudden thunderâ I stood motionless, but my agitation was too violent to be of any long duration. â

"A natural tear I shed but wip'd it soon."

â 'IT was your goodness, and the humanity of your family, that sheltered the wretched Maria, and provided for the helpless Harriot â Your feelings are your reward.

"FROM all the variegated scenes of my past life, I daily learn some new lesson of humanity. Experience hath been my tutorâ I now take a retrospect of my past conduct with deliberation, but not without some serious reflection. Like a sailor, escaped from shipwreck, who sits safely on the shore and views the horrors of the tempest; but as the gale subsides, and the waves hide their heads in the bosom of the deep, he beholds with greater concern the mischief of the storm, and the dangers he hath escaped. From what innate principle does this arise, but from God within the mhzd! â I assert it for the honour of human nature, that no man, however dissolute, but comes back to the hour of reflection and solemn thoughtfulness â when the actions that are passed return upon the mind, and this internal monitor sits in judgment upon them, and gives her verdict of approbation or dislike.

"HE who listens to its call, views his character in its proper light. â I have attended to its cry, and I see my deformity â I recall my mispent time, but, in vain â I reflect on the misery of Maria, and I curse my temerity â I reflect on the state into which I have plunged a once happy female, and am eager to apply a speedy remedy, but this is vain also: Can I restore her that virtue â that innocenceâ that peace, of which I have un-manfully robbed her? â Let us leave the melancholy subject. â

"I WILL not so far supercede the fruit of your benevolence, as to presume to offer you any other recompense, than my sincere prayers for your happiness.

"I have the honour to be,

"With respect, "Yours c. " J. Harrington."

THE disorder of Maria was fatal and rapid â but I hasten to the last scene of her life â it has, though I was young, made an impression on my mind that time can not efface. I went to her, as she was seated on the bed â virtue and harmony were blended in her aspect â she was serene and composed â and her mein, while it expressed a consciousness of superior worth and dignity, exhibited in our view, a striking picture of the grandeur of the human soul â patient though afflicted.â of a spirit broken, and borne down by severe distress, yet striving to surmount all, and aspire to heaven. In what words shall I paint to you, my dear Myra, her heroism and greatness of mind? " Weep not for me," said she, perceiving my emotion â " Death has nothing shocking to me â I have familiarized myself to his terrorsâ I feel the gradual decay of mortality; and waiting with confidence in the Father of Mercy, I am prepared to resign this mortal breath â I resign it in firm assurance of the soul's blessed immor-⁻ tality â Death I view as freeing me from a. world which has lost its rehsh â as opening new scenes of happiness â But a few moments,"⁻ ments," continued she, clasping my hand, "and the scene of Hfe is closed forever â Heaven opens on my soul â I go where all tears shall be wiped away â I welcome death as the angel of peace." â She uttered these words with a placid smile of resignation â her head sunk down on the pillow â and the next minute she was an angel.

"SOUL of the universe!" exclaimed my father-in-law â "there flew the gentlest spirit that ever animated human dustâ Great were thy temptations â sincere thy repentance. If some human infirmity fell to thy lot, thy tears, dear shade, have washed out thy guilt forever!"

LETTER

LETTER XL.

Mrs. Holmes to Myra.

Bellevue.

HAVING presented you with several observations on Seduction, I think it will not be mal apropos to consider the question in another point of view, and discover how a woman may be accessary to her own ruin â It is hardly worth while to contend about the difference between the meaning of the terms accessary 2X. diprincipal. The difference, in fact, is small; but when a woman, by her imprudence, exposes herself, she is accessary; for though her heart may be pure, her conduct is a tacit invitation to the Seducer.

EDUCATED

EDUCATED in the school of luxury and pride, the female heart grows gradually torpid to the fine feelings of sensibility â the blush of modesty wears off â the charms of elegant simplicity fade by degrees â and the continual hurry of dissipation, supersedes the improvement of serious reflection. Reflection is a kind of relaxation from frolicking â it encourages the progress of virtue, and upholds the heart from sinking to depravity.

WE may lay it down as a principle, that Aa conduct which will bear the test of reflection, and which creates a pleasure in the mind from a consciousness of acting right, is virtuous: And she whose conduct will not bear this test, is necessarily degenerating, and she is assenting to her destruction.

LET a lady be liberal or even magnificent, according to her circumstances or situation in life; life; but let the heart remain uncorrupt, let her not be contaminated by wealth, ambition or splendour. She may then take a happy retrospect of her conduct â her heart cannot upbraid her â and the suffrage of her own mind is a convincing proof that she has not strayed from the path of virtue.

j APPY they who can thus reflect â who can recall to view the scenes that are past, and behold their actions with reiterated satisfactionâ they become ambitious of excelling in everything virtuous, because they are certain of securing a continual reward; For as a mighty river fertilizes the country through which it passes and increases in magnitude and force until it empty itself into the ocean: So virtue fertilizes or improves the heart, and gathers strength and vigour by continual progression, until it centre in the consummation of its desires.

DAZZLED

DAZZLED by the-glitter of splendour, and unmindful of the real charms of economy and simplicity, the female heart sighs for the enjoyment of fashion, and flutters to join the motely train of pleasure. But how is it deluded by empty deceptions! Like the fruit which sprang up in the infernal regions, beautiful to the eye, but which left upon the taste bitter ashes, and was followed by repentance â A great quantity of this kind of fruit presents itself to my rashly judging sex; and it 'frequently happens that their hearts have as little iftclination to resist the temptation, as our general parent to refuse the fatal apple.

WE do not rouse to our aid fortitude to enable us to surmount the temptation, but yield ourselves to a kind of voluntary slavery. Hence it is observable, that a woman is often unhappy in the midst of pleasures â and petulant without cause â that she is trifling in matters matters of the highest importance; and the most momentous concern is considered futile, as whim and caprice may chance to dictate.

THE progress of female luxury, however slow it may appear, unless timely checked, works with infallible and destructive advances. The rule we at first adopted might perhaps answer this check; for by the examination thus recommended we behold the dangers of a continuation of such conductâ Ruin and contempt, the invariable concomitants of vice and immorality, proclaim their denunciations on a prosecution of it.

LET us examine the gradual steps, and the

I consequences of fereale luxury.â A desire to 1 be admired is the first. Behold a woman ; surrounded by her worshippers, receiving the sacrifice of adulationâ what

was given her at first as compliment, she now demands as her due. She finds herself disappointed, and is mortified. The first desire still predominating, she attaches herself to the votaries of pride, who direct their feet in the paths of extravagance and irreligion. Thus sunk into effeminacy and meanness, she forfeits her virtue rather than her pride. Thus terminates the career of a woman, whose mind is debilitated, and whose life is expended in the pursuit of vanity.

IT is said of some species of American serpents, that they have the power of charming birds and small animals, which they destine for their prey. The serpent is stretched underneath a tree â it looks steadfastly on the-bird â their eyes meet to separate no more â the charm begins to operate â the fascinated bird flutters and hops from limb to limb, till unable any longer to extend its wings, it falls into the voracious jaws of its en my: This is no ill emblem of the fascinating power of pleasure. Surrounded with temptation, and embarrassed in her circumstances, a woman of dissipation becomes less tenacious of her honour â and falls an easy prey to the fascinating power of the seducer.

HAVING traced to you, my dear Myra, the rise, advancement and termination of pleasure and pride in the female heart, it appears almost unnecessary to remark that this conduct cannot bear the test of reflection and serious examination. We may, however, observe on the contrary, that a woman who advances a few steps, often hurries on still further to prevent thought. This bars the way to a return to that conduct which can give pleasure on recollection. She behaves to herself as the populace did formerly to women suspected of witchcraft â they were tied neck and heels and thrown into the river; if they swam swam they were hung for witchesâ if they sank they were acquitted of the crime, but were drowned in the experiment: So when we only suspect our hearts of an error, we plunge still deeper into the sea of dissipation, to prevent the trial of that conduct which impartial reason and judgement would approve.

NOTWITHSTANDING I give this instance of an encouragement for virtue; yet in all those I have mentioned is a woman acces-sary to her ruin.

DO not imagine, my dear Myra, that I mean to argue against all pleasure- Many of us set out on a principle of false delicacy and destructive rivalry; we cannot behold a fine woman without wishing to appear finer. A laudable emulation in the conduct of all women is extremely praiseworthy â it stimulates stimulates them in line of their dutyâ increases vivacity and good humour; and ambition, thus directed and pursued, I beg leave to designate a female virtue, because it is productive of the most happy consequences.

BUT it sometimes happens that particular virtues lose themselves in their neighbouring vices, and this laudable emulation degenerates into destructive rivalry.

A GENTEEL, handsome woman, deservedly shares the esteem and admiration of all men; but why should this esteem and admiration, justly paid to merit, give us disquiet? The answer is ready. That desire to be admired so predominant in all females, by degrees works itself into the ruling passion, and precludes from the mind the particular virtue of emulation; for why a woman who merits the love of the world, should draw on her the disapprobation disapprobation of many of her own sex, can be accounted for, by no other principle, than the mean, pitiful passion of envy.

THIS may possibly give rise to defamation. It is astonishing how this practice prevails among a few personsâ because it is known by experience, to prove subversive of its very intention. â The arrows of envy recoil upon herself.

HOW foolish must that woman appear who depreciates the merit of another, that she may appear unrivalled! She raises up the dykes of ill-nature, and inundates the land with a flood of scandal, but unhappily drowns herself in the event.

I LEAVE it to the result of your observation, my dear Myra, whether the woman who is first to develop her stores of defamation, and through false emulation, the first to traduce a woman of real merit and virtue, is not also the first who becomes a scandal to herself, and consequently the first that is condemned.

HOW opposite are the pursuits and rewards of her who. participates in every rational enjoyment of life, without mixing in those scenes of indiscretion which give pain on recollection!â Whose chymical genius leads her to extract the poison from the most luxuriant flowers, and to draw honey even from the weeds of society. She mixes with the world seemingly indiscriminately â and because she would secure to herself that satisfaction which arises from a consciousness of acting right, she views her conduct with an eye of scrutiny. Though her temper is free and unrestrained, her heart is previously secured by the precepts of prudenceâ for prudence dence is but another name for virtue. Her manners are unruffled, and her disposition calm, temperate and dispassionate, however she may be surrounded by the temptations of the world.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XLI.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

PRAY that the sun of Thursday may rise propitious â that it may gild the face of nature with joy. It is the day that beholds thy friend united in the indissoluble banns of Hymen.

Let this auspicious day be ever sacred, No mourning, no misfortune happen on it; Let it be marked for triumphs and rejoicings. Let happy lovers even keep it holy, Choose it to bless their hopes and crown their wishes.

IT is the day that gives me Harriot forever.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XLII.

The Hon. Mr. Harrington to the Rev. Mr. Holmes.

Boston.

YOU very well know of my amour with Maria, and that a daughter was the offspring of that illicit connexionâ that sixteen years have elapsed since, by your goodness, she has lived with Mrs. Francis, and let me add, daily improving in beauty and every amiable accomplishmentâ but how shall we be ableâ how shall we pretend to investigate the great springs by which we are actuated, or account for the operation of, SYMPATHYâ my son, who has been at home about about eight weeks, has accidentally seen her, and to complete the triumph of nature â has loved her. He

is now even upon the point of marrying â shall I proceed! â of marrying his Sister!
 â A circumstance seemingly fortuitous has discovered this important affair â I fly to
 prevent incestâ Do not upbraid me with being author of my own misfortunes.â "This
 comes of your libertinism," you will say, " this comes of your adultery!"â Spare your
 reflections, my friend â my heart is monitor enough â I am strangely agitated!

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XLIII.

Tæ Hon. Mr. Harrington to the Rev. Mr. Holmes.

Boston.

MY heart failed me! twenty times have I attempted to break the matter to my son
 â and twenty times have I returned froth the talkâ I have a friend to acquaint him how
 nearly connected he already is with the object of his love. This is a new, and to me a
 sorrowful instance of the force of sympathy â My grief is insupportable â my affliction
 is greater than I can bear â it will bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.

Farewel!

LETTER

LETTER XLIV.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

ALL my airy schemes of love and happiness are vanished Hke a dream. Read this,
 and pity your unfortunate friend.

To Mr. T. Harrington:

"SIR,

"YOU are about to marry a young lady of great beauty and accomplishments â I
 beg you to bestow a few serious thoughts on this important business â Let me claim
 your attention, while-I disclose an affair, which materially concerns you â Harriot
 must must not be your wife â You know your father is averse to your early connecting
 yourself in marriage with any woman â The duty we owe a parent is sacred, but this
 is not the only barrier to your marriageâ the ties of consanguinity prevent it â Shciis
 your SISTER â Your father, or Miss Harrington, will inform you more particularlyâ
 It is sufficient for me to have hinted it in time. â I am, with the most perfect esteem,
 and sincere wishes for your happiness, your

"Unknown friend, c." (In continuation.)

THE gloom of melancholy in the faces of the family but too well corroborated
 this intelligence â so I asked no questions â they read in my countenance that I had
 received the letter, and my sister put into my hand The History of Maria. â I concealed
 cealed my emotion while I read the account â " It is a pitiful tale," said I, as I returned
 it:â and walked out of the room to give vent to the agitation of my heart.

I HAVE not yet seen Harriot â Myra has run to greet her with the new title of sister.
 Adieu! my friend â little happiness is left for me in this world.

LETTER

LETTER XLV.

Myra to Mrs. Hohnes.

Boston.

IN what words shall I describe to you, my dear friend, the misery that has suddenly overwhelmed us! It is impossible to communicate the distressed situation of Harriot â Expression is inadequate to give you an idea of our meeting. â I called her my friend â my sister â She always loved me â, but joy and affection gave way to passion â Her speech refused its office â

Sorrow in all its pomp was there, Mute and magnificent without a tear.

SHE had gained a sister â she had lost a lover loverâ a burst of joy would suddenly break from her, but it was of short duration â and was succeeded by pangs of exquisite distress â nature was unable to support it, and she fainted under the weight of severe conflict. Her constitution at best is feeble; her present illness is therefore attended with more danger â Unless a speedy alteration should take place, the physician has little hopes of her recovery. â Heaven preserve us!

Farewel!

LETTER

LETTER XLVI. Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I HAVE seen her â I prest her to my heart â I called her my Love â my Sister. The tenderness and sorrow were in her eyes â How am I guilty, my friend â How is this transport a crime? My love is the most pure, the most holy â Harriot beheld me with tears of the most tender affection â " Why," said she, " why, my friend, my dear Harrington, have I loved! but in what manner have I been culpable? How was I to

KNOW YOU WERE MY BroTHER? Ycs! I might have known it â how else could you have have been so kindâ so tenderâ so affectionate! "â Here was all the horreur of conflicting passions, expressed by gloomy silence â by stifled cries â by convulsions â by sudden floods of tears â The scene was too much for my heart to bear â I bade her adieu â my heart was breaking â I tore myself' from her and retired.

WHAT is human happiness? The prize for which all strive, and so few obtain; the more eagerly we pursue it, the farther we stray from the object; Wherefore I have determined within myself that we increase in misery as we increase in age â and if there are any happy days they are those of thoughtless childhood.

I THEN viewed the world at a distance in perspective. I thought rjankind appeared happy in the midst of pleasures that flowed round round them. I who find it a deception, and am tempted sometimes to wish myself a child again. Happy are the dreams of infancy, and happy their harmless pursuits! I saw the ignis fatuus and have been running after it, and now I return from the search. I return and bring back disappointment. As I reflect on these scenes of infantine ignorance, I feel my heart interested, and become sensibly affected â and however futile these feelings may appear as I communicate them to you â they are feelings, I venture to assert, which every one must have experienced who is possessed of a heart of sensibility.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XLVII

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I NO longer receive satisfaction â from the enjoyments of the world â society is distasteful to meâ my favorite authors I have entirely relinquished â In vain I try to forget myself, or seek for consolationâ my repose is interrupted by distressing visions of the night â my thoughts are broken â I cannot even think regularly.

HARRIOT is very weak â there is no hope of her life.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER XLVIII.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

MY dear friend, I have a great desire to see you â I wish you could come home speedily â I must be short â I have some serious business to do.

Farewel! P. S. THEY say life is a blessing and it is our duty to improve and enjoy it; but when life becomes insupportable and we find no blessing in it â have we not a right to resign it?

Farewel!

LETTER

LETTER XLIX.

TAe Hon. Mr. Harrington to the Rev. Mr. Holmes.

Boston.

ACCUMULATED sorrows continue to break over my devoted head. Harriot is at times deprived of her reason, and we have no expectation of her recoveryâ my son is deeply affected â he seems strangely disordered.

REVOLVING in my mind all these things and the unhappy affair that led to them, the whole train of my past life returned fresh upon my mind. Pained with the disagreeable picture, and oppressed with the weight of my affliction, I sunk down to sleep: These circumstances had so strongly impressed my imagination that they produced the following Dreamâ My blood is chilled with horror as I write.

METHOUGHT I suddenly found myself in a large, open field, waste and uncultivated â here I wandered in a solitary manner for some time â grief seized my heart at the awful appearance of the place, and I cried aloud â "How long shall I travel here, alone and friendless â a dusky mist swims before my sight, and the obscure horizon seems only to inclose this dismal wild! " Having advanced a few steps, I thought a light at a distance appeared to my doubtful view. Faint with fatigue, I approached it, and had the satisfaction to behold a person of the most benign aspect â a quiet serenity was painted on his brow, happiness ineffable beamed from his Divine countenance â Joy leaped in my bosom, and in the ecstasy of passion I endeavoured to clasp the blessed spirit to my heart; but it vanished in my embrace,

"TEACH me, blessed shade," said I, with a trembling voice â " Teach me to find the habitations of menâ What do I here?â Why am I doomed to explore the barren bosom of this baleful desert? " " This," returned the spirit, in a voice, which, while it commanded veneration and love, struck awe and terrour into my soul â " TAzs is not the habitation of the sons of mortality â it is the place appointed to receive the souls of all men, after they have resigned the bodies they animated on earth. Those who have

violated the laws of reason, humanity, religion, and have dishonoured their God, here meet the punishment due to their crimes.

"ATTEND me, therefore, and view the condition condition of those thoughtless souls, who, a few days ago, were upon earth immersed in pleasure, luxury and viceâ Regardless of futurity, and unprepared for their eternal summons to another world â and who persisted in the delight of their own eyes in opposition to the Divine law, and deaf to the voice of reclaiming virtue. These, the sons of folly and riot, are smitten by the angel of death, while they are yet drinking of the bowl of vice â while the words of blasphemy yet dwell upon their tongues. And when their unhappy spirits sink to these infernal regions, their surviving companions rehearse their funeral panegyrics â the praise of one is, that he could drink the longest â the merit of another that he could sing a good song â a third secures his fame by being excellent in mimicry and buffoonery.â How unhappy he must be, who leaves no other testimony of his usefulness behind him!

"HOW

"HOW different is the fate of the good man: While upon earth his hfe is employed in the cause of virtue. â The happiness he bestows on those around him is reflected back with ten-fold reward; and when he takes rank in that happy place, where there is fullness of joy, and leaves the world of mankind, what numbers are joined in the general concern of his loss! â The aged, while they prepare for the same journey, delight to dwell on his good actions â the virgin strews flowers on his grave, and the poet consumes the midnight oil to celebrate his virtues."

THERE was so much benignity in every word and action of my attendant, that I found myself imperceptibly attached to him. My attention to his discourse had prevented me from observing the progress we had made â for we had arrived at a place encircled with high walls â A great' gate, at the command of my guide, instantly flew open â " Follow me," said he â I tremblingly obeyed.

MY ears were instantaneously filled with the faint cries of those here doomed to receive the rewards of their demerits. Looking earnestly forward, I beheld a group of unhappy wretches â I observed a person who was continually tormenting them â he held in one hand a whip, the lashes of which were composed of adders, and the stings of scorpions; and in the other a large mirrour, which, when he held up to the faces of the tormented exhibited their crimes in the most flagrant colours, and forced them to acknowledge the justness of their punishment. " These," said my guide, " who are scourged with a whip of scorpions, and who start with horror at the reflection of their deeds upon earth, are the souls of the Gambler â the Prodigal â the Duellist, and the Ingrate.

"THOSE

"THOSE whom you see yonder," continued he, "those wasted, emaciated spirits, are the souls of the Envious â they are doomed to view the most beautiful fruit, which they can never taste, and behold pleasures which they can never enjoy. This punishment is adjudged them because most of those vile passions, by which men suffer themselves to be ruled, bring real evil, for prom ised good.

"FOR this reason the all-wise Judge hath ordered the same passions still to inflame those ghosts, with which they were possessed on earth â Observe yon despicable crew!

â behold the sin of Avrice!â those sordid ghosts are the souls of Misersâ Lo! they eye their delightful bags with horrid pleasure; and with a ghastly smile, brood over their imaginary riches. Unable to carry their wealth about with them, they are c'nfined to one spot, and in one position. This infernal joy is the source of their tortures, for behold them start at every sound, and tremble at the flitting of a shade. Thus are they doomed to be their own tormentors â to pore over their gold with immortal fear, apprehension, and jealousy and to guard their ideal wealth with tears of care, and the eyes of eternal watchfulness.

"BEHOLD here," continued my guide, "the miserable division of Suicides!" " Unhappy they! " added I, " who, repining at the ills of life, raised the sacrilegious steel against their own bosoms! How vain the reiterated wish to again animate the breathless clayâ to breath the vital air â and to behold the cheering luminary of Heaven!"â "Upbraid me notâ O my father!" cried a voice â I looked up, and thought my son appeared among themâ immediately turning from so shocking a spectacle, I suddenly beheld my once loved Maria â "O delight of my youth! do I behold thee once more! â Let me hide my sorrows in thy friendly bosom." I advanced towards her â but she flew from me with scorn and indignation â " O speak! Maria! speak to me!" She pointed with her finger to a group of spirits, and was out of sight in a moment.

"LET me," said my conductor, " prepare you for a more dreadful sight." The increasing melancholy, and affecting gloom of the situation, forboded something terrifying to my soul â I looked toward the place where Maria had pointed, and saw a number of souls remote from any division of the unhappy. In their countenances were depicted more anguish, sorrow and despair â I turned my head immediately from this dreadful sight, without distinguishing the nature of their loo Z)t oinet of ntpat i, their torments. Quivering with horror, I inquired who they were â " These," answered my guide, with a sigh, " are the miserable race of SEDUCERS.â Repentance and shame drive them far front the rest of the accursed. Even the damned look on them with horror, and thank fate their crimes are not of so deep a die."

HE had hardly finished, when a demon took hold of me and furiously hurried me' in the midst of this unhappy group â I was so terrified that it immediately aroused me from my sleep. â

EVEN now, while I write to you, my good friend, my hand trembles with fear at the painful remembrance â Yet â 'Twas but a dream, but then

So terrible, it shakes my very soul.â

Farewel!

LETTER t t jaotocr of? mpatl). loi

LETTER L. Harriot to Harrington.

Boston.

MUST I then forget the endearments of the lover, and call you by the name of brother? But does our friendship remain upon this foundation? Is this all that unites us? And has there subsisted nothing more tender â a sentiment more voluntary in our hearts? My feelings affirm that there was. At the hour of our first interview I felt the passion kindle in my breast. Insensible of my own weakness, I indulged its increasing violence and delighted in the flame that fired my reason and my senses.

Do you remember our walks, our conversation, our diversions? â The remembrance of these things fill my mind with inconceivable torture â they seem to reproach me with unmerited criminalityâ I deprecate, I detest all these scenes of gaiety and frivolityâ yet I have preserved my innocence and my virtue â what then have I to deprecate, what have I to detest?

ALAS! how have we been forming schemes of happiness, and mocking our hearts with unsubstantial joys. Farewel! farewell ye gilded scenes of imagination. How have we been deluded by visionary prospects, and idly dwelt upon that happiness which was never to arrive. â How fleeting have been the days that were thus employed! â when anticipation threw open the gates of happiness, and we vainly contemplated the approach of bliss; and we beheld in reversion, the pleasures of life, and fondly promised ourselves, one day to participate in them; when we beheld in the magick mirror of futurity, the lively group of loves that sport in the train of joy. We observed in transports of delight the dear delusion, and saw them, as it were, in bodily form pass in review before us; as the fabled hero views the region of preëx-istant spirits, and beholds a race of men yet to be born.

SUCH was our hope, but even this fairy anticipation was not irrational. We were happy in idea, nor was the reality far behind. And why is the vision vanished? O! I sink, I die, when I reflectâ when I find in my Harrington a brother â I am penetrated with inexpressible grief â I experience uncommon sensations â I start with horror at the idea of incest â of ruin â of perdition.

HOW do I lament this fatal discovery, that that includes the termination of a faithful love! I think of him whom I have resolved to be eternally constant â and ah! how often have I resolved it in my heart. I indulge, in idea, the recollection of his caressesâ of his protestations, and of his truth and sincerity â I become lost in a wilderness, and still I travel on, and find myself no nearer an escape. I cherish the dear idea of a lover â I see the danger and do not wish to shun it, because to avoid it, is to forget it â And can I, at one stroke, erase from my mind the remembrances of all in which my heart used to delight.? Ah! I have not the fortitude â I have not the virtue, to "forget myself to marble." On the contrary, I strive no longer to remember our present connexion. I endeavour to forget â I curse the idea of a brother â my hand refuses to trace the word, and yet

The name appears

Already written; blot it out my tears!

AH, whence this sorrow that invests my soul! This gloom that darkens â this fire of impassioned grief, that involves all my thoughts! why do I rave, and why do I again abandon myself to despair! Come, O Harrington! be a friend, a protector, a brother â be him, on whom I could never yet call by the tender, the endearing title of parent. I will reverence him in whom all the charities of life are united â I will be dutiful and affectionate to you, and you shall be unto me as a fatherâ I will bend on the knee of respect and love, and will receive your blessing.

Why did you go away so soon? Why leave me when I was incapable of bidding you adieu? When you pressed my cheek with the kiss of love, of fraternal affection what meant its conscious glow? What meant the ebullition of my veins, the disorder of my nerves, the intoxication of my brain, the blood that that mantled in my heart? My

hand trembled, and every object seemed to swim before my doubtful view â Amidst the struggle of passion, how could I pronounce the word â how could I call you by the title of brother? TrueâI attempted to articulate the sound, but it died upon my tongue, and I sank motionless into your arms.

ALLIED by birth, and in mind, and similar in age â and in thought still more intimately connected, the sympathy which bound our souls together, at first sight, is less extraordinary. Shall we any longer wonder at its irresistible impulse? â Shall we strive to oppose the mk 0 nature that draws us to each other." When I reflect on this, I relapse into weakness and tenderness, and become a prey to warring passions. I view you in two distinct characters: If I indulge the idea of one, the other becomes annihilated, and I vainly imagine I have my choice of a brother or â

I AM for a while calm â but alas! how momentary is that calmness; I dwell with rapture on what fancy has represented; but is the choice regulated by virtue? Is it prompted by reason? I recollect myself, and endeavour to rouse my prudence and fortitude; I abhor my conduct, and wish for obscurity and forgetfulness. Who can bear the torment of fluctuating passion? How deplorable is the contest? The head and the heart are at variance, but when Nature pleads how feeble is the voice of Reason? Yet, when Reason is heard in her turn, how criminal appears every wish of my heart? What remorse do I experience? What horrors surround me? Will my feeble frame, already wasted by a lingering decline, support these evils? Will the shattered, frail bark outride the tempest, and will the waves of affliction beat in vain? Virtue, whose precepts I have not forgotten, will assist meâ if not to surmount, at least to suffer with fortitude and patience.

OH! I fear, I fear my decaying health â If I must depart, let me beseech you to forget me â I know the strength of your passion, and I dread the fatal consequences my departure may occasion you.

ONCE more let me intreat you, my dear friend, to arm yourself with every virtue which is capable of sustaining the heaviest calamity. Let the impetuosity of the lover's passion be forgotten in the undisturbed quietness of the brother's affection, and, may all the blessings that life can supply be yours â Seek for content, and you will find it, even though though we should never meet again in this world.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER LI.

Myra to Mrs. Holmes.

Boston.

THE curtain is dropped, and the scene of life is forever closed â The Lovely Harriot is no More.

SHE is fit to appear in Heaven, or her life was a scene of purity and innocence â If there is any consolation to be felt by a sur-vivour, it is in the reflection of the amiable qualities of the deceased. My heart shall not cease to cherish her idea, for she was beautiful without artifice, and virtuous without affectation.

Seel

See! there all pale and dead she lies; Forever flow my streaming eyes â There dwelt the fairest â lovliest mind, Faith, sweetness, wit together join'd.

Dwelt faith and wit and sweetness there? O, view the change, and drop a tear.

MY brother is exceedingly agitated â He will never support this disastrous stroke
â Nothing can attract his attention â nothing allay his grief â but it is the affliction of
reason and not of weakness â God grant that it prove not fatal to him.

Adieu! â Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER LII.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston. SHE is gone â she is dead â she who was the most charming, the most
gentle, is gone â You may come â you may desire to behold all that was lovely â but
your eyes will not see her.

YES! I raved â I was distracted â but now I am calm and dispassionate â I am smooth
as the surface of a lake â I shall see her again.

WHEN our spirits are disencumbered of this load of mortality, and they wing their
flight flight to the celestial regions, shall we not then know those who were dear to us
in this world? Shall we not delight in their society, as we have done in this state of
existence? Yes â certainly we shall â we shall find them out in Heaven â there alone is
happiness â there shall I meet her â there our love will not be a crime â Let me indulge
this thought â it gives a momentary joy to my heart â it removes the dark mist that
swims before my eyes â it restores tranquility; but the more I reflect on this thought â
the more I long to be there â the more I detest this world and all it contains. I sigh to
fly away from it.

LETTER

LETTER LIII.

Harrington to Worthy.

INGRATITUDE is a predominant principle in the conduct of man. The perfidious
â, who owes to me his reputation and fortune, and with whom I intrusted a great part
of my property, has deceived me. The affair will materially retard my business.

TO be unfortunate in trade is not worth a sigh â to receive inattention and incivility
does not merit a frown; but Ingratitude â it is this that cuts to the quick. Yet I freely
give him my pity; for what man, who considered for a moment the inconsistency of
the human heart, would hurl the thunderbolt of indignation at the head of an ingrate?
What an important little thing is man! he contrives to over-reach his neighbour, and
mount to the enjoyment of riches, ambition and splendour; but remember not the
period of enjoyment â that his life is a day, and his space a "point!"

NATURALISTS inform us of insects whose term of existence is confined to a few
hours â What is the business and importance of such a life?

WOULD not a being, whose circle of living is immensity of ages, inquire with
equal propriety: "What is the importance of man â What actions can he perform â
What happiness can he enjoy, whose insignificant life is circumscribed to seventy
years?" â In this point of view I behold the tinsel, the vanity and noise of the world,
and the little plots and cunning artifices of mankind to cheat and ruin one another.

INGRATITUDE, then, is constitutional, and inseparable from human nature, but
it ought not to fill us with surprize, because it is no new discovery â It has ever been
invariably the characteristick of man. Is not the page of antiquity distained with

blood of those who ought to have received honour and adoration? Behold the brilliant race of the world's benefactors: Consider their benevolent actions, and regard their ungrateful return â these benefactors, who have been sent from Heaven to inform and entertain mankind, to defend the world from the arm of, tyranny, and to open the gates of saivation, have been despised, and banished, and poisoned and crucified.

BEHOLD the support of the Roman power, the invincible Belisarius! who protected his country from the ravage of the Huns, and displayed the Roman eagle in every quarter of the globe! Behold him fall a sacrifice to malice, to faction and ingratitude! Bfehold him cast out by the country he had defended, and for which he had wasted his life to protect and honour, and left alone to deplore his unfortunate condition, when he was old, and blind, and naked and miserable!

UNFORTUNATE is the man who trusts his happiness to the precarious friendship of the world â I every day become more of a misanthrope, and see nothing to increase my desire of living, but your esteem and affection. I want advice, but am too proud to let the world know I am weak enough to be under obligation to anyone else.

THAT you may never want friends or advice, is the sincere prayer of

Yours c.

LETTER

LETTER LIV.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

ALL the scenes of my past life return fresh upon my merriory. I examine every circumstance as they pass in review before meâ I see nothing to cause any disagreeable or unwelcome sensations â no ter-rour upbraids â no reproaching conscience stings my bosom as I reflect on the actions that are past. With her I expected happiness â I have expected a vain thing â for there is none â She is gone â gone to a far country â she is preparing a place for me â a place of unutterable bliss â But oh! an immeasurable measurable gulph lies between us â Who can tell the distance that separates us? What labour â what toil â what pain must be endured in traversing the thorny paths that lead to her blessed abode? â And will she not receive me in those happy regions with as much joy â with as sincere a welcome â if I cut short my journey? â And will not the Eternal Dispenser of Good, pardon the awful deed that frees me from this world of misery â the deed by which I obtrude myself into his divine presence?

WHY must I wait the lingering hand of the grisly messenger to summon me to the world above?

LETTER

LETTER LV.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

AM I a child that I should weep?â I have been meditating on the course of my calamitiesâ Why did my father love Maria â or rather, why did I love their Harriot? Curse on this tyrant custom that dooms such helpless children to oblivion or infamy! Had I known her to have been my sister, my love would have been regular, I should have loved her as a sister, I should have marked her beautyâ I should have delighted in protecting it. I should have observed her growing virtues â I should have been happy

in cherishing their growth. But alas! She is gone â and I cannot stay â I stand on the threshold of a vast eternity.

LETTER

LETTER LVI.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

I AM determined to quit this life. I feel much easier since my determination. The step must not be taken with rashness. I must be steadyâ calm â collected â I will endeavour to be. so.â

HER eager solicitationâ the anxiety she always expressed for me â When I think she is no more, it wrings my heart with grief, and fills my eyes with tearsâ â I must go â

THE idea chills me â I am frozen with horror horror â cold damps hang on my trembling body â My soul is filled with a thousand troubled sensations â I must depart â it must be so â My love for thee, O Harriot! is dearer than life â Thou hast first sat out â and I am to follow. â

WERE it possible that I could live with her, should I be happy? Would her presence restore peace and tranquility to my disordered mind? Ah no! it never would here â it never would. I will fly to the place, where she is gone â our love will there be refined â I will lay my sorrows before her â and she shall wipe away all tears from my eyes.

WHEN the disembodied spirit flies aboveâ â when it leaves behind the senseless clay, and wings its flight â it matters not to me what they do with his remains.

Cover his head with a clod or a stone, It is all one â it is all one!

LETTER

LETTER LVII.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

THE longer I live, and the more I see the misery of life â the more my desire of living is extinguished. What I formerly esteemed trifles, and would not deign to term misfortunes, now appear with a formidable aspect â though I once thought them harmless, and innoxious to my peace, they assume new terrors every day. â But is not this observation general.? It is â It is thus every son of human nature, gradually wishes for death, and neglects to seek for, and improve those comforts, which by diligent search there is a possibility of attaining.

AM I to reason from analogy? I know what has been â the afflictions I have felt; but what is the prospect before me? The path is darkened by mistsâ

Puzzled in mazes, and perplexed with errors â

WHO is there hardy enough to try difficulties? Is not the view horrible! My pains and anxieties have been severe â those which, if I live, I shall suffer, may be yet more so â This idea sinks me to despair.

AS a thing becomes irksome to us, our detestation is always increased â Whatever object is disagreeable, we pine and sicken until it is moved out of sight. Life growing upon one in this manner â increasing in hor-rour â with continual apprehension of death â a certainty of surviving every enjoyment, and no prospect of being delivered from

suspense â it is intolerable â he will assuredly be tempted to terminate the business with his own hand.

LETTER

LETTER LVIII.

Worthy to Harrington.

Boston.

YOU argue as if your reason were perverted â Let your mind be employed, and time will wear out these gloomy ideas; for it is certainly a truth, the love of life increases with age â Your letters, therefore, are predicated on the most erroneous principles.

REMEMBER the story of the old man, who had been buried in a dungeon the greater part of his life, and who 'was liberated at an advanced age. He viewed, once more, the light light of the sun, and the habitations of men â he had come into a new order of beings, but found their manners distastefulâ In the midst of the sunshine of the world he remembered the prison, where he had wasted his life, and he sighed to be again immured within its walls.

SUCH is our passion for life; we love it because we know it; and our attachment becomes the more riveted, the longer we are acquainted with it â Our prison grows familiar â we contemplate its horrorsâ but however gloomy the walls that surround us, there is not one but sets a full value on his dreary existence â there is not one but finds his partiality for his dungeon increase, in proportion to the time he hath occupied it â for among the race of human beings confined to this narrow spot â how few are they who are hardy enough to break their prison?

LET us watch over all we do with an eye of scrutiny â the world will not examine the causes that gave birth to our actions â they do not weigh the motives of them'â they do not consider those things which influence our conduct â but as that conduct is more or less advantageous to society, they deem it madness or wisdom, or folly or prudence â Remember this â

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER LIX. Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

YOU are egregiously mistaken, argue as you will.â My perceptions are as clear as any one'sâ The burden that is at first heavy and inconvenient, galls us as we proceedâ it soon becomes intolerable, we sink under its weight, and lie gasping in the publick way long before night.

AS to the world â who strives to please it, will be deservedly rewarded â; he will reap his labour for his pains â Let it judge of my conduct. I despise its opinion â Independency of spirit is my mottoâ I think for myself.

LETTER

LETTER LX.

Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

HOW vain is the wish that sighs for the enjoyment of worldly happiness. Our imagination dresses up a phanton to impose on our reason: As Pygmalion loved the work of his own hand â so do we fall in love with the offspring of our brain. But our

work illudes our embrace â we find no substance in it-and then fall a-weeping and complain of disappointment. Miserable reasoners are we all.

WHY should I mourn the the loss of Harriot rio any longer? Such is my situation â in the midst of anxiety and distress, I complain of what cannot be remedied. â I lament the loss of that which is irretreivable: So on the sea-beat shore, the hopeless maid, unmindful of the storm, bewails her drowned lover.

LETTER

LETTER LXI.

Worthy to Harrington.

Bellevew.

I THANK you for your letters, but I wish you had something better for the subje. ct of them â the sad repetition of your feelings and sorrows, pains me exceedingly â I promise to be with you soon â perhaps before you can receive this letter.

WHATEVER concerns my friend, most sensibly affects me â You, Harrington are the friend of my heart, and nothing has so much grieved me as the story of your misfortunes.

IT is a maxim well received, and seems to be admitted an article in the moral creed of mankind, " that the enjoyments of life do not compensate the miseries." Since, then, we are born to suffer, and pain must attend us in all the stages of our journey, let us philosophically welcome our companion. The most eligible plan we can adopt, is to be contented in the condition that Providence hath assigned us. Let us trust that our burden will not be heavier than we can bear â When we adopt this plan, and are sensible we have this trust, our lesson is Complete â we have learned allâ we are arrived to the perfection of sublunary happiness.

DO not think I am preaching to you a mere sermon of morality â let me impress your mind with the folly of repining, and the blessing of a contented mind.

LET me intreat you not to puzzle your brain brain with vain speculations â if you are disposed to argue, do not put foolish cases that never existed â take the light of facts, and reason from them.

WHEN we are surrounded with miseries of life â the baseness of false friendsâ the malice of enemies â when we are enveloped in those anxious fears, the result of too much sensibility, human nature feels a degree of oppression, which, without a manly exertion of reason and 'this practical philosophy, would be intolerable. I have heard you mention St. Evremond as a philosopher of this kind. Arm yourself with his prudence and fortitude â he, though in exile â though reduced, almost to penury, and labouring under the disadvantages of a bad constitution, lived to be a very old man; he established a course of rational pleasures â for when the mind is employed, we regret the loss of time â we become avaricious of life.

WHEN

WHEN misfortunes come upon us without these consolations, it is hard, I acknowledge, to buffet the storm â it is then human frailty is most apparent â there is nothing left to hope â Reason is taken from the helm of life â and Nature â helpless, debilitated Nature â lost to herself, and every social duty, splits upon the rocks of despair and suicide. We have seen several examples of this â By exploring and therefore shunning the causes, let us avoid the catastrophe.

THE pensive and melancholy will muse over the ordinary accidents of life, and swell them, by the power of imagination, to the heaviest calamities. Hence we find a treacherous friend will sensibly affect some men, and a capricious mistress will destroy a real lover: Hence people in misfortune frequently construe the slightest inattention into neglect and insult, and deem their best friends false and ungrateful. The sting of ingratitude, deeply pierces the heart of sensibility.

THE passions and affections which govern mankind are very inconsistent. Men, confined to the humble walks of life, sigh for the enjoyment of wealth and power, which, when obtained, become loathsome â The mind unaccustomed to such easy situation, is discontented, and longs to be employed in those things in which it was formerly exercised.

THE greatest rulers and potentates become unhappy â they wish for the charms of solitude and retirement, which, when attained, become more irksome than their former condition â Charles the Fifth, of Spain, resolved to taste the pleasures of a recluse life, by abdicating the "throne â he soon found his imagination had deceived him, and repented of the step he had taken. This lazy life, when compared compared to the business and grandeur of a court, became tasteless and insipid. â " The day," says a historian, " he resigned his crown to his son, was the very day in which he repented making him such a present."

IT is a great art to learn to be happy in the state in which we are placed â I advise you to mingle in the concerns of your acquaintances â be cheerful and undisturbed, nor give yourself up to those gloomy ideas which lend only to make you more wretched â If such obtrude themselves, avoid being alone â I had rather been a dupe to my imagination than sacrifice an hour's calmness to my sensibility or understanding. Determine to be happy, and you will be so â

God be with you!

LETTER

LETTER LXII. Harrington to Worthy.

Boston.

WHEN we seek for diversion in any place, and there is nothing to be found that we wish, it is certainly time to depart.

TOMORROW I goâ There is nothing here that can calm the tumult of my soul â I fly from the sight of the human countenance I fly from the face of day â I fly from books â Books that could always cheer me in a melancholy moment, are now terrifying â They recall scenes to my recollection that are pastâ pleasant scenes that I am never more to enjoy. They present pictures of futurity â I just opened a book, and these words that I read:â "The time of my fading is near, and the blast that shall scatter my leaves. Tomorrow shall the traveller come, he that saw me in my beauty shall come; his eyes shall search the field, but they will not find me."

THESE words pierce me to the quick â they are a dismal prospect of my approaching fate.

' TOMORROW I shall go â But oh! whither.'" â

O! MY friend, when we find nothing we desire in this world, it is time to depart. To live is a disgrace â to die is a duty.

Farewel.

LETTER

LETTER LXIII.

Worthy to Mrs. Hohnes.

Boston.

I ARRIVED in town last evening â you desire rpe to write you a statement of affairs as I should find them here â and of my marriage with the amiable Myra â I promised to obey â but how little do we know of the termination or consequences of the most probable event!

I SAW my beloved â her eyes were yet heavy and smarting with weeping for the death of Harriot â and this, once the house of joy and cheerfulness, is turned into the house house of mourning. My unfortunate friend had just then fallen into a calm sleep, and it was impossible to see him it was what I very much desired â but it was the wish of the family that I should desist for the present â he had not slept the evening before â he had been heard walking across his chamber all the night, with little intermission, oftentimes talking to himself in a passionate tone of voice.

THIS melancholy account deeply affected me â and I parted from my beloved, praying Heaven to give her consolation, and to be the support of my disordered friend.

IT is with difficulty I bring myself to the serious and the painful employment of being the informer of unwelcome tidingsâ my heart feels the woundâ vainly it tells me my friend is no more â my hand reluctantly traces â my friend â my Harrington is no more.

EARLY

EARLY thismdrning I was surprised with a visit, from a gentleman, whom I had formerly seen at Myrds â it was the same neighbour who informed Harrington of his affinity to Harriot â he found a difficulty in his utterance â he told me, with trembling lips, my young friend Harrington was dead â " He has killed himself," said I â he asked me if I had heard the news â I told him my heart presaged it.

WHEN any uncommon event happens to us, we often have a presentiment of it â The circumstances of his death are these:â At midnight the gentleman heard the report of the pistol, and went into the house â he found the unhappy youth wheltering in his blood â few signs of life remained â the ball had entered his brain â the surgeon came, but in a few hours he was cold. A few friends were requested to attend â and this gentleman gentleman had called upon me, by desire of Myra.

IT is impossible to describe the distress of the family and connexions â I shall leave it to your imagination.

A LETTER that he had written for me, laid unsealed upon the table, and The Sorrows of Werter was found lying by his side. I send you the letterâ it appears to have been written at intervals, and expresses the disorder and agitation of his mind.

Adieu!

LETTER

LETTER LXIV.

Harrington to Worthy.

HARRIOT is dead—and the world to me is a dreary desert â I prepare to leave it the fatal pistol is charged â it lies on the table by me, ready to perform its duty â but that duty is delayed till I take my last farewell of the best of friends.

YOUR letter is written with the impetuosity of an honest heart; it expresses great sincerity and tenderness.

I THANK you for all your good advice â it comes too lateâ O Worthy! she is dead â she is gone â never to return, never again to cheer my heart with her smiles and her amiable amiable manners â her image is always before me â and can I forget her? No! â She is continually haunting my mind, impressing the imagination with ideas of excellence â but she is dead â all that delighted me is become torpid â is descended into the cold grave.

With thee

Certain my resolution is to die; How can I live without thee â How forego Thy converse sweet, and love so dearly join'd, To live again in these wild woods forlorn?

loss of thee Will never from my heart â no! no! â I feel The link of nature draw me.

From thy state Mine never shall be parted, bhss or woe.

THOU hast sat out on a long journeyâ but you shall not go alone â I hasten to overtake overtake thee. My resolution is not to be diverted â is not to be shaken â I will not be afraidâ I am inexorable â

I HAVE just seen my father â he is dejected â sullen grief is fixed upon his brow â he tells me I am very ill â I looked at Myra â she wiped her face with her handkerchief â perhaps they did not imagine this was the last time they were to behold me.

SHE mentioned the name of Worthy, but my thoughts were differently engaged. She repeated your name, but I took no heed of it. Take her, my Worthy â Myra is a good girl â take her â comfort her. Let not my departure interrupt your happiness â perhaps it may for a short time. When the grass is grown over my grave, lead her to it, in your pensive walks â point to the spot where my ashes are deposited â drop one tear on the,.

remembrance remembrance of a friend, of a brother â but I cannot allow you to be grieved â grieve for me! Wretch that I amâ why do I delayâ

I WISH I could be buried by the side of her, then should the passenger who knows the history of our unfortunate loves, say â " Here lies Harrington and his Harriot â in their lives they loved, but were unhappy â in death they sleep undivided." â Guardian spirits will protect the tomb which conceals her body â the body where every virtue delighted to inhabit. â

DO not judge too rashly of my conduct â let me pray you to be candid,â I have taken advantage of a quiet moment, and written an Epitaph â If my body were laid by her's, the inscription would be pertinent. Let no one concerned be offended at the. moral I" havfi chosen to draw from our unfortunate story.

MY heart sinks within me â the instrument of death is before me â farewell! farewell!â My soul sighs to be freed from its confinement â Eternal Father! accept my spirit â Let the tears of sorrow blot out my guilt from the book of thy wrath.

LETTER

LETTER LXV. Worthy to Mrs. Holmes.

Boston.

WE have surmounted the performance of the last scene of our tragedy, with less difficulty and distress than I imagined. Great numbers crowded to see the body of

poor Harrington; they were impressed with various emotions, for their sympathizing sorrow could not be concealed â Indeed a man without sensibility exhibits no sign of a soul. I was struck with admiration at the observations of the populace, and the justness of the character they drew of the deceased, "Alas!" said one â '- poor youth thou art gone. Thou wast of a promising genius, of violent passions, thou wast possessed of a too nice sensibility, and a dread of shame. It is only such an one who would take the trouble to kill himself. Ah! poor well na-tured, warm hearted, hot headed youthâ how my heart bleeds for you! We consider thee as the dupe of Nature, and the sacrifice of Seduction." The old father hears this, and becomes overwhelmed with shame and sorrow.

THE jury which sat upon the body of our friend, after mature consideration, brought in their verdict Suicide. The rigour of the law was not executed- the body was privately taken away, and I saw it deposited by the side of his faithful Harriot.

I SEND you inclosed a copy of the Monumental Inscription, as written by Harrington.

I found

I found it with many loose papers. It contains the story of our unfortunate friends, and a profitable moral is deduced from it.

THOUGH a few weeks begin to spread calm over our passions, yet the recollection of our misfortunes will sometimes cause a momentary agitation, as the ocean retains its swell, after the storms subsides.

Adieu!

sponumental 31nsicrt)ptton,

THOU who shalt wander o'er these humble plains, Where one kind grave their hapless dust contains, O pass not on â if merit claim a tear. Or dying virtue cause a sigh sincere. Here rest their heads, consign'd to parent earth. Who to one common father ow'd their birth; Unknown this union â Nature still presides, And Sympathy unites, whom Fate divides.

They

They see â they love â but heav'n their passion, tries,

Their love sustains it. but their mortal dies.

Stranger! contemplate well before you part,

And take this serious counsel to thy heart:

Does some fair female of unspotted fame,

Salute thee, smiling, with a father's name,

Bid her detest the fell Seducer's wiles, â"

Who smiles to win â and murders as he smiles.

If ever wandering near this dark recess.

Where guardian spirits round the ether press,

Where, on their urn, celestial care descends,

Two lovers come, whom fair success attends.

O'er the pale marble shall they join their heads,

And drink the falling tears each other sheds.

Then sadly say, with mutual pity mov'd,

"O! may we never love as these've loved."

Jrft

Notes.

For many reasons it has been thought best to reprint this book exactly after the original copy, "verbatim et LITERATIM ET PUNCTUATIM"; and although the modern purist may feel offended at the archaisms of orthography, syntax and punctuation at the last of which appears to have been used with rhetorical and not grammatical significance, he must content himself with the fact that art would have lost all and science gained nothing by the rewriting of the above pages in the diction of today.

Out of regard for the feelings of the descendants of the originals of certain characters of the novel, who are living today in Boston, the editor has decided to reveal the identity only of those of the personae who are already known, to a more or less extent, through the literary history of New England. Although curiosity may turn away unsatisfied with the volume, yet the art of it all remains through considering Harrington, father and son, Maria and Harriot, and Mrs. Holmes nothing more than types and not as individuals whose true biographies are written.

Vol. I, page 83, begins the story of "Martin" and "Ophelia," the real characters of which were recognized at the time to be Mr. Perez Morton and his young sister-in-law, Theodosia Francis Apthorp. In commenting on this fact in the book, Sabin writes in his "Books relating to America" (Vol. xv, Page 377) "This work created quite a sensation, and was suppressed by interested parties. The names of Fanny Apthorp and Perez Morton are not yet forgotten as connected with the matter."

Perez Morton was born at Plymouth, Nov. 13, 1751. His father settled at Boston, and was keeper of the White Horse Tavern, opposite Hayward-place, and died in 1793. The Son entered the Boston Latin School in 1760, and graduated at Harvard College in 1771, when he studied law; but the revolutionary war prevented his engaging in the practice, and he took an active part in the cause of freedom. In 1775 he was one of the Committee of Safety, and in the same year became deputy-secretary of the province. After the war, he opened an office as an attorney at law, at his residence in State-street, on the present site of the Union Bank.

In 1777 he married Sarah Wentworth Apthorp, at Quincy, noted by Paine as the American Sappho. Mr. Morton was a leader of the old Jacobin Club, which held meetings at the Green Dragon Tavern, and became a decided Democrat. A political poet of Boston thus satirizes Perez Morton:

"Perez, thou art in earnest, though some doubt thee! In truth, the Club could never do without thee! My reasons thus I give thee in a trice,â You want their votes, and they want your advice!

"Thy

"Thy tongue, shrewd Perez, favoring ears insures,â The cash elicits, and the vote secures. Thus the fat oyster, as the poet tells, The lawyer ate,â his clients gained the shells."

Mr. Morton was Speaker of the House from 1806 to 1811, and was attorney-general from 1810 to 1832; was a delegate from Dorchester to the convention for revising the State constitution, in 1820, and was vigorous in general debate. He died at Dorchester, Oct. 14, 1837. He was an ardent patriot, an eloquent speaker, of an elegant figure and polished manners.

This Mansion, (the home of "Worthy," later the city residence of Mr. Perez Morton) as enlarged and embellished by its honoured proprietor, the late Charles Ap-thorp, Esq. was then, that is, about the middle of the Eighteenth Century, said to be the scene of every elegance, and the abode of every virtue. Now, (1823) its beautiful hall of entrance, arches, sculpture, and base-relief; the grandstair-case, and its highly finished saloon, have been removed, or partitioned off, to accommodate the bank and its dependencies.

Thomas Wentworth Earl of Strafford, the Minister, and favourite of Charles the First, sacrificed by that Monarch to his own personal safety—was beheaded near the end of the reign. Charles, in his last moments, declared that he suffered justly for having given up the Earl of Strafford to popular fury.

The near Relations of this Nobleman were the founders of the American Family of Wentworth. This family being presumptive heirs to the now extinct Title of that Earldom of Strafford.

These were Henry and Samuel Wentworth, the maternal uncles of the Author, both perished before they had attained the age of twenty. The first, on a northern voyage of curiosity and improvement, was entangled amid floating masses of ice, and in that situation expired along with the whole ship's company, passengers and seamen.

His young brother, Samuel Wentworth, having been invited to England by his noble relatives, was under the patronage of those, admitted as student at the Temple; at which period he first met Miss Lane, the object of his honourable passion, and the cause of his fatal misfortune, the daughter of a great commercial house of that period. Her large inheritance, by her father's will, made dependent on the pleasure of her mercantile brother, to the aristocracy of whose wealth, young Wentworth could only oppose nobility of birth, accomplishment of mind and beauty of person, possessions which the man of commerce held as nothing, compared with the superior treasures of monied interest.

Consequently the love was prohibited, and the lover banished from his mistress; who though closely imprisoned in her own apartment, found means to preserve an epistolary connection. The correspondence increasing the enthusiasm of restricted passion, until every possible hope of their union being extinguished, a deadly vial was obtained, and the contents, equally divided, were at one desperate moment swallowed by both. Their last desire, of being buried in the same grave, was denied.

These

These frantic and too affectionate lovers, finished the short career of their miseries on the birth day of Wentworth, being that which completed the nineteenth year of his age. And it is riot irrelevant to add, that the brother of the lady lived to lose his immense possessions, and died desolate and distressed; at which period, we trust, repentance came, and forgiveness was awarded.

John, the founder of the transatlantic race of Ap-thorp, was a man of taste and talent in the Fine Arts; particularly those of Painting and Architecture. A taste and talent, which has in some instance been transmitted to his descendants even of the fifth generation.

An ardent imagination, and an ambitious desire of mental improvement, led him from his native country of Wales. And in England, he saw, loved, and married, Miss

Ward, a celebrated beauty, with a large fortune, whose Portrait, by Sir Peter Lely, yet remains with her descendant. This portrait is distinguished by the long dark eyes, which that artist preferred and made fashionable.

The qualities of both parents live, and are conspicuous in some of their descendants. A highly respectable individual of these, whose superiority of mind may possibly disdain such recollections, was, in his minority, so transcendantly handsome, that upon a Tour through the Southern States, he was generally designated "The Eastern Angel." As he now is, the Genius of Canova might design that form as a model for the sublime statue of melancholy, since his fortunes have fallen like those of his race â a voluntary sacrifice to the best sentiments.

sentiments, and the noblest feelings of humanity, while domestic bereavements coming yet nearer to his gracious heart have left it the prey of sorrow.

Charles Bulfinch, Esq. of Washington, at this time (1823,) the National Architect, is one more evidence of the inestimable happiness of a good descent.

The present Stone Chapel (corner of School and Tremont Streets) â originally the King's Chapel â founded by Royalty, was finished by the generosity of individuals. Charles Apthorp, Esq. the son of John, gave 5 cool, sterling, a very large sum for the Provinces at that period, about the middle of the eighteenth century.

His Marble Monument with a very fine Latin Inscription, by his Son, still remains in the Chapel, which Monument covers the Tomb of the truly noble-minded race of Apthorp.

How erst the shield, whose crested pride.

The Crest, if not the whole Armorial Bearing, is thought or said to have been conferred upon the Battle Field by Richard.

The shield of the Apthorp arms, which bearing a mullet or spur, in heraldry, with truly Welsh prepossession, the family were fondly, perhaps foolishly, wont to trace back to the Crusades.

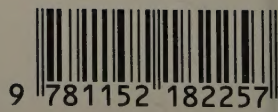
Bellevue was undoubtedly the Apthorp homestead at Quincy where Mrs. Morton passed her youth.

In the Rev. Mr. Holmes, Quincy antiquarians will readily recognize the Rev. Dr. Greenleaf, whose religious and philosophical teachings undoubtedly had great influence on the author who was to come so near being his biographer.

The above notes are compiled principally from "My Mind AND Its Thoughts." â a book referred to in the Introduction

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